

Los Alamos National Laboratory

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Ron K & Barbara

*Trevi
Susan*

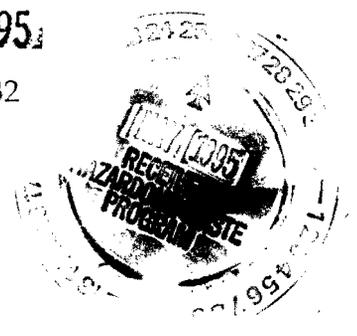
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MAY 23 1995

Date:
Refer to: EM/ER:95-232



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Mr. William Honker
Hazardous Waste and Management Division
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
1445 Ross Street, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF TWO NEW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS (SWMUs) *7/10*

Dear Mr. Honker:

Two previously unknown SWMUs have been identified at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory). These units are:

- Tree-Rimmed Firing Point
- Former Bayo Landfill

As required by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module of our Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit, we are notifying the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of these new SWMUs. The procedures followed at the Laboratory to confirm the existence of the units include field verification of the units and review of historical documentation.

The two SWMUs are located within Bayo Canyon on land that now belongs to the Los Alamos County. The enclosed map shows the location of these units. Both sites were once owned and operated by the Atomic Energy Commission, the predecessor of the Department of Energy.

The SWMUs are tentatively assigned the following numbers: SWMU No. 010-008, Tree-Rimmed Firing Point; and SWMU No. 010-009, Former Bayo Landfill. The Tree-Rimmed Firing Point was discovered during routine surface shrapnel characterization activities in Bayo Canyon by Field Unit 1. Shrapnel was observed in one side of a group of trees ringing an open core area covering approximately four 100 feet by 100 feet grid sections. This is considered to be a new SWMU as it is located about 2,200 feet from the central firing pad area and the presence of shrapnel

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is much denser in this newly identified area. Shrapnel is present on the ground surface at a density of 1,200 pieces per grid section. This firing site was not known to exist and was not mentioned during conversations with former area workers. After locating this potential site, additional interviews were conducted and a former employee indicated that some explosive tests were conducted outside the routine firing pad area using devices that did not contain radioactive diagnostic elements.

Former Bayo Landfill was also discovered during routine surface shrapnel characterization activities in Bayo Canyon. A small depression was noted which contained materials such as asbestos siding, heavy gauge and coaxial wire and cable, laboratory glassware, and other debris. Geophysics conducted in the area indicate additional material is below the ground surface. The landfill area differs from the surrounding area as there are fewer boulders in the immediate vicinity, smaller and younger trees, and potential bulldozer blade cuts. Additional interviews conducted with former area workers confirmed that the area had been used for disposal.

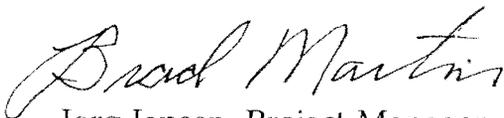
We believe that the units pose no immediate threat to human health or the environment. All units will be incorporated into Field Unit 1 for investigation.

We request that these SWMUs not be added to our permit due to their offsite location. These units will be investigated with the same rigor as units identified in the permit. The timing of the investigations will depend on the hazard ranking for each unit.

In addition to these SWMUs, the Laboratory has also recently discovered the existence of one area of concern (AOC) in close proximity to the two newly identified SWMUs in Bayo Canyon. This unit is also shown on the enclosed map. The AOC is tentatively identified as C-10-001 and consists of two small plots, approximately 10 feet by 10 feet, which were found to contain soil above radioactive background levels. This was noted based on the use of field screening instruments.

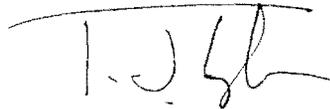
Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Court Fesmire at (505) 665-4718.

Sincerely,

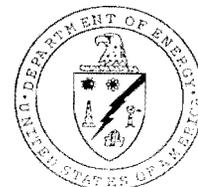
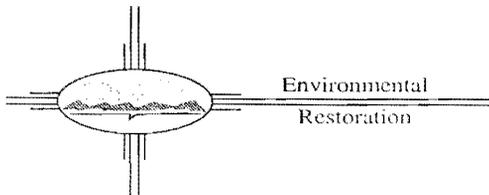


Jorg Jansen, Project Manager
Environmental Restoration

Sincerely,



Theodore J. Taylor, Program Manager
Los Alamos Area Office



JJ/TT/bp

Enclosures: (1) Map Showing Locations Of New Potential Release Sites
(2) Signed Certification Form

Cy (w/enc.):

B. Garcia, NMED
T. Glatzmaier, DDEES/ER, MS M992
D. Griswold, ERD, AL, MS A906
C. Fesmire, AAMEP, LAAO, MS A316
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EM/ER File, MS M992
LAAO File, MS A316
RPF, MS M707

Cy (w/o enc.):

T. Baca, EM, MS J591
J. Jansen, EM/ER, MS M992
J. Vozella, AAMEP, LAAO, MS A316
W. Spurgeon, HQ, EM-452
N. Weber, Bureau Chief, NMED-AIP, MS J993

CERTIFICATION

I certify under penalty of law that these documents and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violation.

Document Title:

Notification Of Two New Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs)

Name:



Date:

5/22/95

Tom Baca, Program Director
Environmental Management
Los Alamos National Laboratory

or

Jorg Jansen, Project Manager
Environmental Restoration Project
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Name:



Date:

5/23/95

Joseph Vozella,
Acting Assistant Area Manager of
Environment Projects
Environment, Safety, and Health Branch
DOE-Los Alamos Area Office

or

Theodore J. Taylor
Program Manager
Environment Restoration Program
DOE-Los Alamos Area Office

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