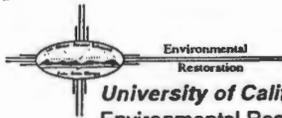


Johnell



University of California
Environmental Restoration Project, MS M992
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
505-667-0808/FAX 505-665-4747



U. S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office, MS A316
Environmental Restoration Program
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
505-667-7203/FAX 505-665-4504

12/9011/1
H5WA LANL

Date: September 16, 1998
Refer to: EM/ER:98-364

SUBJECT: TA-21 MDA B ACTIVITY

Dear Neighbor:

The Los Alamos National Laboratory's Environmental Restoration Project Material Disposal Area (MDA) staff and its subcontractors are performing field work at the Technical Area 21 MDA B area on the south side of DP Road. The activities include geodetic surveying, collection of surface samples, and drilling boreholes to determine whether contaminant migration has occurred beneath MDA B. The work is estimated to take approximately eight weeks, depending on the weather and equipment problems.

Most of the activities will take place within the fence. However, there will be some surface sampling activities, which will occur outside the north fence in the parking lots adjacent to DP road, and some drilling activities may take place outside the fence.

In order to protect the health and safety of the subcontractors conducting the field work, personal protective clothing (e.g. tan coveralls and gloves) will be worn and air monitoring equipment will be used to ensure that workers are not exposed to any contamination.

We do not anticipate that our activities will have any impact on your businesses. If you have any questions or concerns you may contact Carmen M. Rodriguez at 665-6770.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Canepa, Program Manager
Environmental Restoration

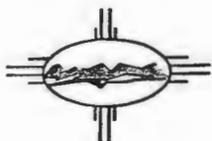
Sincerely,

Theodore J. Taylor, Program Manager
DOE/LAEO

JC/TT/cm



TL



Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Restoration Project

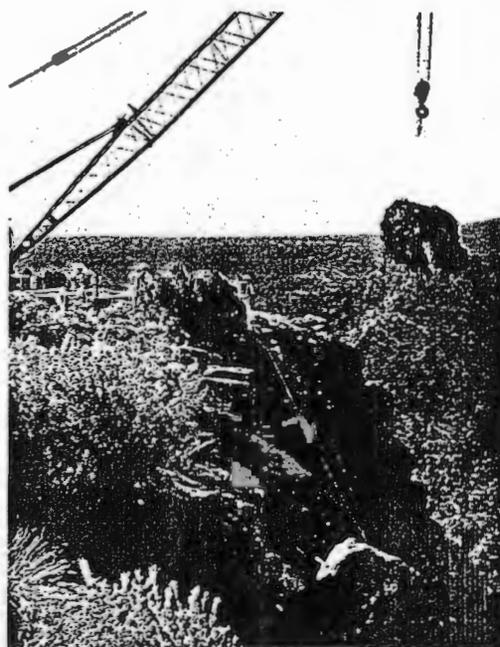


Mission Statement and Goals

The mission of the ER Project is to bring together multidisciplinary, world-class science, engineering, and state-of-the-art management practices to remedy environmental problems resulting from 50 years of Laboratory operations in Los Alamos.

The Project's specific goals are to

- protect human health and the environment from exposure to releases of hazardous, radioactive, and mixed wastes from historical treatment, storage, and disposal practices at the Laboratory and
- meet the environmental cleanup requirements of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments portion of the Laboratory's permit to operate under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.



Los Alamos National Laboratory's Environmental Restoration (ER) Project is part of a national effort by the Department of Energy (DOE) to clean up the facilities involved in its weapons production program. The goal of this effort is to ensure that DOE's past operations do not threaten human or environmental health and safety. The program is governed primarily by the corrective action process prescribed in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) but is also subject to other applicable laws and regulations. The ER Project is investigating all sites that may have been contaminated by past operations to determine the nature and extent of any contamination. It is also exploring possible measures for cleaning up contamination and selecting and implementing remedies at these sites.

At Los Alamos, the number of potentially contaminated sites is approximately 2,100. Much of the investigation phase has been completed, and, as a result, many sites have been found not to be contaminated and are being removed from the total list of sites without further action. Accelerated cleanup (an abbreviated version of the full corrective action process that regulators authorize for sites where levels of contamination are known and cleanup processes are obvious) has been completed or has begun at many of the remaining sites. A small percentage of sites, currently estimated at less than 10%, will need to go through the entire corrective action process, a task that is expected to take until 2009 to complete.

Environmental Monitoring and Past Cleanup Efforts at the Laboratory

Since 1970, the Laboratory has conducted a comprehensive environmental monitoring and surveillance program designed to identify releases from Laboratory operations that could pose a health risk to individuals living in the communities surrounding the Laboratory. Data gathered under this program indicate that no contamination that threatens the health or safety of local residents is known to exist on private property.

How the Environmental Restoration Project Works

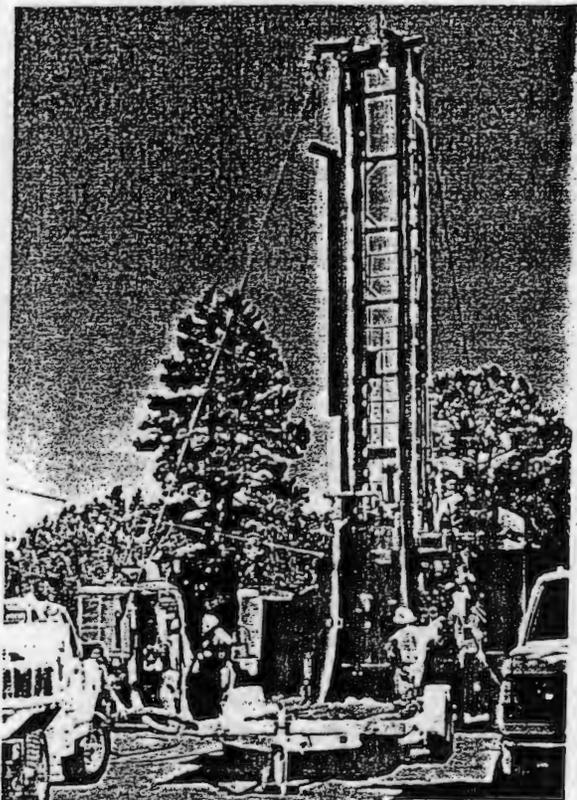
Environmental restoration projects at DOE facilities around the country, including the one at Los Alamos, are exploring and adopting approaches that speed up the remediation process, when appropriate, and reduce costs. This approach permits a site-specific, customized remediation to be planned, designed, and implemented without proceeding through the entire corrective action process, while still safeguarding human health, safety, and the environment.

As sites are cleaned up, or it has been determined that no cleanup is required, they are removed from the ER Project's list of Potential Release Sites (PRSs). In the case of hazardous waste sites regulated under RCRA and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA), when all issues related to a particular PRS have been resolved with EPA, the PRS is removed from the list in the HSWA Module by means of a permit modification, described below.

Permit Modification

Whenever there is a need to change information in the HSWA Module, the Laboratory and the DOE prepare a proposal for one of three classes of permit modification: Class I modifications deal with minor changes in the HSWA Module; Class II modifications deal with changes such as those made necessary by changes in regulations. Class III modifications involve substantial changes, such as removing a PRS from the list in the HSWA Module.

When ER Project investigations indicate that a site is clean enough to meet regulatory standards, it prepares a list of the sites, their history, and the reasons for proposing their removal from the list. For sites listed on the HSWA modules, the project submits the list to the regulatory agency and arranges for public notification, a 60-day public comment period, and a formal public meeting in accordance with regulatory requirements for a Class III modification. The record of the comments, together with comments received during the 60-day comment period, is submitted to the regulatory agency, which is solely responsible for making decisions to remove sites from the list. Citizens' comments carry a great deal of weight in the regulator's decision. For sites not listed on the HSWA Module, DOE makes the determination that no further action is required.



For additional information on the Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Restoration Project:

P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop M992
Los Alamos, NM 87545
(505) 665-4557
Website: <http://erproject.lanl.gov/>

ER Project Managers:

Ted Taylor, Program Manager
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office

Julie Canepa, Project Manager
University of California
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Rev. March 1998