

Cobrain, Dave, NMENV

From: Baumer, Andrew R II [andybaumer@lanl.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 02, 2010 12:04 PM
To: Cobrain, Dave, NMENV
Cc: Dale, Michael, NMENV; Perkins, Courtney; Schappell, Bruce G; Graham, Michael J; George, Victoria A; Dover, Gordon L; Trollinger, Everett A; Rael, George J; Duran, Arturo Q.
Subject: MDA B update



Dave, an update.

On 8/24 while excavating MDA B in Enclosure 1, a small pipe-like object was excavated. Per procedure, all anomalous objects are placed aside for further characterization. Excavation continued until the waste bin was full, almost entirely with soil. The RCTs entered the enclosure to perform a survey and found the "pipe" was highly contaminated. It was wrapped in plastic and placed in the waste bin. Soil samples from the bin indicated the bin contained more material-at-risk (MAR) than allowed for a radiological facility. The enclosure was put in a safe condition and all excavations were stopped. There was no release outside of the enclosure and no contamination of personnel. All safety systems performed as expected. We are currently developing a path forward that will allow us to continue excavating by upgrading our procedures and processes if we encounter other objects with MAR above radiological levels. Because of the visibility and importance of the MDA B cleanup within DOE and to NMED, we expected the path forward to be approved quickly and at that point we will resume excavation.

Any questions, give me a call.

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