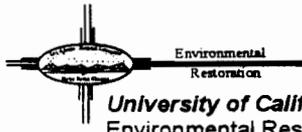


TA33

Los Alamos National Laboratory

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION



Environmental Restoration
University of California
Environmental Restoration, 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
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
505-665-7203
FAX 505-665-4504

Date: May 2, 1996
Refer to: EM/ER:96-239

Mr. Benito Garcia
NMED-HRMB
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION OF NEW POTENTIAL RELEASE SITES (PRSS) AT LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LABORATORY)

Dear Mr. Garcia:

During routine field investigations at the Laboratory, several new PRSSs were discovered. The sites include a landfill at Technical Area (TA) 33 and septic tanks/systems at TA-73.

As required by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments Module of our Resource Conservation and Recovery Act operating permit, we are notifying the Environmental Protection Agency of the eight new PRSSs. Two of these PRSSs are proposed as solid waste management units (SWMUs) and six are proposed as areas of concern (AOCs). The procedures followed at the Laboratory to confirm the existence of these units include field verification and review of historical documentation.

The first proposed SWMU, a landfill, is located at TA-33. The area is located approximately 250 feet east of Building 39. The fill area has a surface dimension of approximately 50 feet by 100 feet. The depth is unknown. Debris was observed at this site in and around drainages where erosion of the soil cap had exposed chemical bottles, carbon rods, and scrap metal. This SWMU is tentatively assigned the number 33-008(c).

The second proposed SWMU is a steel septic tank and drainlines discovered at TA-73. This unit was discovered south of State Road 502 and north of DP Canyon, in an area historically known as Contractors Row. This area was occupied by construction contractors until the early 1950s. The septic tank is a cylindrical steel tank with a cast iron inlet and a vitrified clay pipe outlet. It has a diameter of approximately 4 feet and is approximately 8 feet deep. The tank is mostly empty with a slight amount of sludge in the bottom. The waste associated with this unit is anticipated to be sanitary. The tank has a removable lid, which allowed for visual inspection of the inside of the unit. This SWMU is tentatively identified as 73-007.



The other sites are recommended to be AOCs. They were discovered in the same proximity as the above unit (73-007). They appear to be excavations used as unlined septic tanks or possibly outhouse trenches. There are 6 of these excavations and they are described as follows:

- Site 1 - approximately 8 feet by 8 feet square by 3 feet deep to the top of the infilling soil. A vitrified clay inlet pipe enters the north side of the tank and a shallow trench extends from the south side of the tank toward the edge of the mesa.
- Sites 2, 3, and 4 - all rectangular with approximate dimensions of 3 feet by 10 feet by 2 to 3 feet deep to the top of the infilling soil. Western most of the 3 rectangular tanks has a vitrified clay outlet pipe connecting to the southwest corner and extending approximately 30 feet to the southwest before daylighting at the ground surface. Eastern and middle rectangular tanks have no discernible inlet or outlet pipes. Middle tank is mostly filled with soil.
- Sites 5 and 6 - are difficult to provide dimensions, but appears from vial inspection to be on the order of 4 feet by 4 feet. Soil has eroded into these excavations and the walls have collapsed making them difficult to measure. There are no discernible inlet or outlet pipes identified at these sites.

These units are currently identified as AOCs because of the likelihood that they will contain only sanitary waste, if anything, after 40 years of non-operation. They are tentatively numbered AOCs 73-005(a-f).

We believe that none of these units pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment. All units will be incorporated into the 1996 field investigations. Detailed information along with sampling and analysis plans for these units are forthcoming.

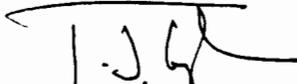
Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Dave McInroy at (505) 667-0819 or Bonnie Koch (505) 665-7202.

Sincerely,



Jorg Jansen, Program Manager
Environmental Restoration

Sincerely,



Theodore Taylor, Program Manager
Los Alamos Area Office

JJ/TT/am

Cy: G. Allen, CST-18, MS E525
J. Harry, EES-5, MS M992
B. Koch, LAAO, MS A316
D. McInroy, EM/ER, MS M992
R. Michelotti, CST-18, MS E525
D. Neleigh, EPA

J. Mose, LAAO, MS A316
P. Shanley, ESH-19, MS M992
T. Taylor, LAAO, MS A316
EM/ER File, MS M992
RPF, MS M707