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*Benito Garcia*  
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Date: June 5, 1996  
 Refer to: EM/ER:96-329

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

**SUBJECT: CORRECTION TO EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE  
 RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT  
 FACILITY INVESTIGATION (RFI) REPORT FOR POTENTIAL  
 RELEASE SITES (PRSS) IN TECHNICAL AREA (TA) 35**

Dear Mr. Garcia:

On May 2, 1996, we submitted a letter, EM/ER:96-237, with an RFI Report for TA-35 in former Operable Unit 1129. Included in this RFI report were the results of investigations for PRSSs 35-003(h, j, and k); 35-004(b); 35-008; 35-009(a through d); 35-014(a, b, d, c, e<sub>1</sub>, e<sub>2</sub>, and f); 35-015(b); and 35-016(e, f, and i). After the document had been mailed, Field Unit 4 discovered an error on the table in the executive summary. That error has been corrected, therefore we are enclosing the corrected executive summary.

Please ask your office to contact Allyn Pratt at (505) 667-4308 or Bob Simeone at (505) 667-0587, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Jorg Jansen*

Jorg Jansen, Program Manager  
 LANL/ER Project

Sincerely,

*Theodore J. Taylor*

Theodore J. Taylor, Program Manager  
 DOE/LAAO

JJ/TT/bp

Enclosure: Corrected Executive Summary for RFI Report for TA-35



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N. Naraine, DOE-HQ, EM-453  
D. Neleigh, EPA, R.6, 6PD-N (2 copies)  
A. Pratt, EES-13, MS J521  
M. Shaner, CIO, MS A117 (5 copies)  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the first of several reports that describe the Phase I results of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facility investigation (RFI) to evaluate contamination at Technical Area (TA) -35. TA-35 is located in former Operable Unit 1129, which is part of Field Unit 4 in the Environmental Restoration Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory). Included in this RFI report are the results of investigations for Potential Release Site (PRS) Nos. 35-003(h, j, and k); 35-004(b); 35-008; 35-009(a through d); 35-014(a, b, d, e<sub>1</sub>, e<sub>2</sub>, and f); 35-015(b); and 35-016(e, f, and i).

TA-35 (also known as Ten Site) is currently used for nuclear safeguard studies, laser research and development, physical research, fusion work, and other experimental research. It is one of the largest technical areas at the Laboratory with approximately 300 designated structures. It is located on Ten Site Mesa between Mortandad Canyon and Ten Site Canyon.

Operations at TA-35 began in 1951 and include research operations; two experimental reactors (between 1956 and 1964); lasers and laser fusion research, including development, fabrication, and operation of lasers and laser targets; nuclear safeguards research and development of assay instrumentation; and research in ceramics, robotics, polymer synthesis, high-speed impact studies, and strain-rate measurements on a variety of materials. Other operations include the Ten Site Waste Treatment Facility (from 1951 to 1963).

Effluent routes from TA-35 include ventilation stacks, septic systems, storm sewer lines and discharge channels, industrial waste lines and outfalls, and leaking storage structures including underground and aboveground tanks and surface compounds. The chemicals and other constituents that contributed to the list of potential contaminants include metals, volatile organic compounds, semivolatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyl compounds, and radionuclides. Radionuclides were investigated as part of this RFI, although radiological contamination is not regulated by RCRA.

The purpose of the Phase I RFI was to determine whether chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) are present in the PRSs at TA-35. Field activities followed sampling and analysis plans (SAPs) that were designed to confirm the presence or absence of COPCs. These SAPs were submitted as part of the *RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1129* (LANL 1992, 7666) and the addendum to the work plan (Pratt 1994, 43475), except as noted in Chapter 5.0 of this RFI report.

Field activities for the PRSs described in this RFI report began on November 4, 1993, and ended on December 22, 1995.

The data analysis process consisted of using a decision approach that involved a series of qualitative and quantitative steps. First, analytical data are verified and validated, then the data undergo a data quality assessment, and finally the data are compared with appropriate site-specific background values. A human health screening assessment was performed to determine if COPCs are present. An ecological assessment was performed by evaluating the potential for ecological receptors to be exposed to COPCs associated with the site.

No significant concerns are associated with the quality of the data; data quality evaluation is presented in Chapter 4.0 of this RFI report. Radiological sample results are not presented or discussed in this RFI report and will be provided by September 1997 as an addendum when the radiological data evaluation is completed.

For the purposes of the screening assessments reported in this RFI report, the PRSs at TA-35 have been organized into the decision units listed in Table ES-1. Where appropriate, PRSs are reported individually.

The following PRSs are recommended for no further action: PRS Nos. 35-003(h, j, and k); 35-004(b); 35-009(a through d); 35-014(a, b, d, and e<sub>2</sub>); 35-015(b); and 35-016(e, f, and i). The following PRSs are recommended for voluntary corrective action: PRS Nos. 35-008, 35-014(e<sub>1</sub>), and 35-014(f). The results of the RFI for each PRS are summarized in Table ES-1.

**TABLE ES-1**  
**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTIONS**

PRS	HSWA	Proposed Action			
		NFA Criteria	Further Action	Rationale	Section No.
35-003(h)	X	4		Contamination below SALs, no COPCs identified	5.3
35-003(j) 35-003(k) 35-014(d) 35-015(b)	X X X	4		COPCs were determined to pose a negligible threat to human health	5.4
35-004(b)	X	4		Contamination below SALs, no COPCs identified in human health screening assessment	5.6
35-016(e)		4		Contamination below SALs, no COPCs identified in human health screening assessment	5.7
35-009(a)	X	4		Contamination below SALs, no COPCs identified in human health screening assessment	5.8
35-009(b)	X	4		Contamination below SALs, no COPCs identified in human health screening assessment	5.9
35-009(c)	X	4		COPCs were determined to pose a negligible threat to human health	5.10
35-009(d)	X	4		Contamination below SALs, no COPCs identified in human health screening assessment	5.11
35-014(a)	X	1		Site has not received solid or hazardous wastes as defined in the HSWA module	5.12
35-014(b)	X	4		Contamination below SALs, no COPCs identified	5.13
35-014(e <sub>2</sub> ) 35-016(i)	X X	3 and 4		Contamination below SALs, no COPCs identified in human health screening assessment	5.14
35-014(f)			VCA	Contamination obvious, small area, remedy obvious	5.15
35-016(f)		4		Contamination below SALs, no COPCs identified in human health screening assessment	5.16
35-008 35-014(e <sub>1</sub> )	X X		VCA	Contamination above SALs, surface water issues, remedy obvious	5.19