

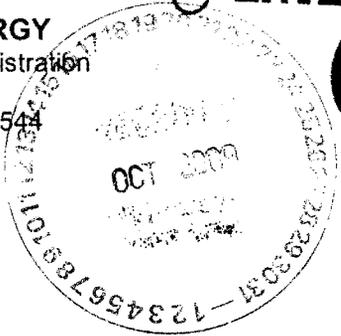
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TA 43

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

ENTERED



OCT 15 2009

Distribution List:

The purpose of this letter is to serve as notification for actions proposed within a floodplain area at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in accordance with the U. S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements (10 CFR Part 1022), and to request that the attached document, the Floodplain Assessment of the Proposed Cleanup of Potentially Contaminated Soil in Los Alamos Canyon, TA-43, Los Alamos National Laboratory, be made available for public review at the Robert J. Oppenheimer Study Center Research Library for a period of 30 days.

The DOE National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Los Alamos Site Office is preparing to implement a project to conduct a cleanup within a drainage below the town site (area of potential contamination Solid Waste Management Unit [SWMU] 01-001[f]) and construct two retention ponds at the base of the drainage located in Technical Area 43 within Upper Los Alamos Canyon. SWMU 01-001(f) was a septic tank and associated outfall that served a uranium machine shop. The tank has been removed. Radiological-contaminated soil was excavated during a voluntary corrective action in 1996 from this area. Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination was found during follow-up sampling in this area and is required to be cleaned up. This activity is covered in the LANL cleanup project under the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) consent order.

The cleanup includes collecting 50 pre-excavation samples from the sediment in the drainage for PCB analysis to better identify the limits of excavation. Approximately 500 cubic yards of sediment are estimated to be excavated from within the drainage. Equipment anticipated to be used will be a vacuum truck, with minimal use of an excavator, backhoe, and skid loaders. Sampling will be performed using a spade and scoop; if tough terrain is encountered, a hand auger will be used. In addition, an excavation of approximately 2,000 cubic yards of sediment from the lower drainage and completion of two retention ponds will be performed. Grubbing and clearing of vegetation will be conducted prior to start of excavation activities. Heavy equipment (such as excavator, backhoe, skid steer, etc.) will be utilized to perform this work. Vegetation removed during grubbing and clearing will be re-used for erosion control on-site after excavation is complete. The retention ponds and staging of the vacuum truck and items associated with the drainage cleanup will be located within the 100-year floodplain of Upper Los Alamos Canyon.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022, NNSA has prepared the attached Floodplain Assessment and will perform the proposed action in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain. Copies of the Floodplain Assessment are available for review electronically on the Internet at: <http://www.lanl.gov/environment/compliance>, and for hard copy review at the Robert J. Oppenheimer Study Center Research Library, located within LANL's Technical Area-3, Los Alamos, New Mexico. The draft document may also be sent upon request by calling Ms. Vicki Loucks at (505) 667-6819.

Any comments about the action are due no later than close of business on October 29, 2009. Written comments should be addressed to Ms. Loucks at: U. S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos Site Office, 3747 West Jemez Road, Los Alamos, NM 87544, or may be submitted by e-mail to: vloucks@doeal.gov, or sent by facsimile to (505) 667-9998. For further information on general DOE floodplain environmental review requirements, contact Mrs. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and



OCT 15 2009

Compliance (GC-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20585; (202) 586-4600, or leave a message at (800) 472-2756.

Sincerely,



Juan L. Griego
Assistant Manager
National Security Missions

26.4 NSM:8VL-205156

cc:

V. Loucks, NSM, LASO

C. Rodriguez, EO, LASO

L. Hansen, ENV-EAQ, LANL, MS-J978

Records Center, LASO

Official Contract File, LASO