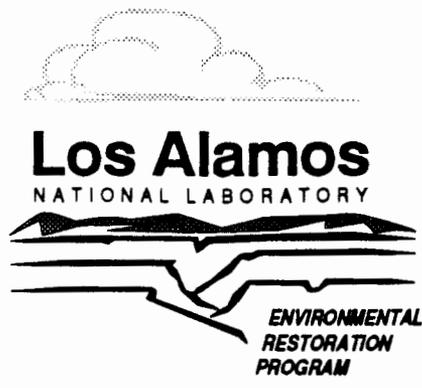


TA50

9/1/92



**Fact Sheet
for Operable Unit 1147
Resource Conservation
and Recovery Act
Facility Investigation
Work Plan**

September 1992

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) Work Plan is a document that addresses the site characterization activities for all solid waste management units (SWMUs) in Operable Unit (OU) 1147. This document was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in May 1992. Characterization activities begin after EPA approves the work plan and are scheduled to continue through 1997.

The primary purpose of the OU 1147 RFI Work Plan is to describe the site characterization activities and verification sampling that will address potential contaminant releases from the SWMUs within OU 1147, thus satisfying the regulatory requirements of Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendment (HSWA) Module VIII of the Los Alamos National Laboratory's RCRA Part B Operating Permit.

Background

Operable Unit (OU) 1147 consists of solid waste management units (SWMUs) identified in Technical Area 50 (TA-50), which occupies the area just northeast of the intersection of Pajarito Road and Pecos Drive (Figure 1). An operable unit is a logical grouping of potentially contaminated sites called SWMUs.

Twenty-six potentially contaminated areas have been identified in OU 1147. Twenty-three of these are associated with the industrial liquid waste facilities for treatment, transfer, and temporary storage of water contaminated with radioactive mixed waste, and disposal of clean water and sludge. Two areas are an incinerator and a volume reduction and packaging facility that treat radioactive and hazardous waste. The Area C landfill is the twenty-sixth site. It encompasses 11.8 acres, and contains a wide variety of radioactive and hazardous waste forms.

The landfill operated from 1948 until 1969 and was shut down in 1974. The liquid waste treatment plant began operation in 1963 and continues today. The incinerator is being upgraded for regular operation, and a permit is being sought. The volume reduction facility is under development.

Contaminants and Pathways of Concern

Some of the contaminants that may be present in OU 1147 include the following radionuclides: plutonium, americium, uranium, cesium-137, strontium-90, and tritium. Hazardous waste constituents include mercury, nitrates, cyanide, chromate plating solution, lead, chlorinated and fluorinated hydrocarbons, waste oil, and beryllium.

After water has been treated to meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System standards at the liquid waste treatment plant, it is released into Mortandad Canyon. There have been some accidental incidents of soil contamination from the liquid waste treatment plant in localized areas and from Area C on Laboratory property.

For many years, the Laboratory has conducted a comprehensive environmental monitoring and surveillance program in Los Alamos County and throughout northern New Mexico. This continuing program is designed to identify releases from Laboratory operations that could pose a health risk to individuals living in the communities surrounding the Laboratory. Data gathered in the monitoring program show that no releases have resulted in contamination of private property,

Acronyms

- CMS**
Corrective Measures Study
- DOE**
U.S. Department of Energy
- EPA**
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- HSWA**
Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments
- OU**
Operable Unit
- RCRA**
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- RFI**
RCRA Facility Investigation
- SWMUs**
Solid Waste Management Units



nor do they threaten the health and safety of local residents. If an imminent health threat is found, immediate action will be taken by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Laboratory.

Previous Cleanup Activities at Operable Unit 1147

In 1984 a new soil cover was placed over part of the Area C landfill to mitigate erosion and contaminant transport across the ground surface. Current monitoring data demonstrate that the soil cover has stabilized the surface of the site.

Future Action and Proposed Time Frame

In accordance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Laboratory has developed a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) work plan. This plan outlines procedures to verify past cleanups and to determine the presence of residual contamination (if any). All sites within OU 1147 are being investigated to identify all contaminant sources, determine whether contaminant migration has occurred, and decide what corrective measures must be implemented to meet the RCRA requirements. This plan also details the steps to be taken if such contamination is found. These include identifying the type and extent of contamination and whether and to what degree persons, plants, or animals may have been exposed to contamination. Possible corrective actions range from long-term monitoring and institutional controls to dismantling of facilities and excavation of contaminated materials followed by treatment or approved disposal. The TA-50 RFI work plan was submitted to the EPA in May 1992.

Evaluation of TA-50 according to the RFI work plan is scheduled to begin after EPA approves the work plan and should be completed in 1997. A corrective measures study (CMS), to identify and evaluate remediation alternatives, is scheduled to begin after the RFI is completed.

Reporting

The HSWA Module VIII of the Laboratory's RCRA permit specifies that reports be submitted during the course of the RFI/CMS process. Results of the OU 1147 RFI field investigation will be reported in three types of documents: quarterly technical progress reports, phase reports, and the RFI Report. RFI phase reports, which summarize results of initial site characterization activities and describe any necessary follow-up activities, will be generated as characterization of SWMUs is completed. The RFI phase reports will be approved by EPA prior to proceeding with the subsequent field investigations. At the conclusion of the RFI, the phase reports will be compiled into an overall Final RFI Report due to EPA in September 1997.

Reports generated during the implementation of this work plan will be made available for review by the public at the Environmental Restoration (ER) Community Reading Room in downtown Los Alamos (2101 Trinity Drive). The Reading Room is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Laboratory business days. Access at other times may be arranged by calling 505-665-2127.

Conclusion

Ensuring safe management of past, present, and future waste requires the cooperation of government, industry, and the public. The Laboratory is committed to providing the public with information such as this fact sheet. The Laboratory will continue to provide information concerning actions taken during investigation and throughout the entire cleanup process. If you have additional questions about OU 1147 or about the Laboratory's ER Program, please do not hesitate to call or write:

**Community Relations Project Leader
Environmental Restoration Program
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Box 1663, MS M314
Los Alamos, NM 87545
505-665-5000 or 505-665-2127**

Figure 1 Location of Operable Unit 1147

