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Date: June 21, 1996
 Refer to: EM/ER:96-364

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

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF TWO NEW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS (SWMUS)

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Two new SWMUs have been identified at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. These are at two separate locations within Technical Area (TA) 53. They are referred to as lead shot sites and their corresponding potential release site (PRS) numbers are: Lead Shot Site I is 53-013 and Lead Shot Site II is 53-014. The locations of these sites are identified on the enclosed maps.

At both locations there is lead shot on the surface. The size of the shot varies from 1.5 to 4 mm. The source of the lead shot is lead shielding used in association with the operation of TA-53-10 beam accelerator. Lead shot is used within the area as shielding from radioactivity. The age of the units is uncertain. No exact date can be determined for the initiation of lead shot use, as shielding material occurred at TA-53. Due to the uncertainty of the age and source of the lead shot, it is not clear that this is not an operational release. However, since the accelerator facility has been present since the late 1960s, it is possible that the lead has also been there since the 1960s. Therefore, the Environmental Restoration (ER) Project has determined these two sites are SWMUs and must be identified as new SWMUs.

Lead Shot Site I is located north of the east end of the accelerator building. It is comprised of two adjoining fenced areas; the storage area (the small bone yard) and the staging area. Equipment has and continues to be stored in these areas. Assembly work has also been conducted here. The staging area has been used for staging components for beam experiments; the site surface is sandy. Analyses of the lead shot and sand from the unit reported up to 110,000 ppm lead for total metals analysis.

Lead Shot Site II is a paved supply storage area south of Building TA-53-365. The lead shot here was apparently spilled on the paved surface and stormwater has washed the lead shot through a curb cut into an asphalt channel. This channel joins NPDES Outfall EPA 031113 from Buildings TA-53-293 and 294. The discharge is from two cooling towers. The lead shot is traceable from the asphalt pad area down the asphalt channel



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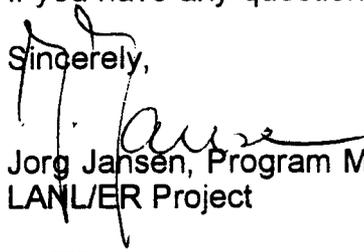
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to the outfall. Storm and outfall water drop sharply across rocks and vegetation and small sediment traps. Lead shot was traced to the approximately 150 feet within the drainage. No lead was detected at the lower portion of the drainage where it connects with Sandia Canyon.

Cleanup of these PRSs is expected to be straightforward and is anticipated to be done under a voluntary corrective action plan. Cleanup of these units will occur when there is funding available. The cleanup mechanism is expected to be an industrial vacuum loader. The ER Project is coordinating with the Laboratory's Surface Water Quality Group to determine if any corrective actions are necessary until the sites are remediated. If you have any questions, please call Dave McInroy at (505) 667-0819.

Sincerely,


Jorg Jansen, Program Manager
LANL/ER Project

JJ/TT/bp

Sincerely,


Theodore J. Taylor, Program Manager
DOE/LAO

Enclosures: Maps

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