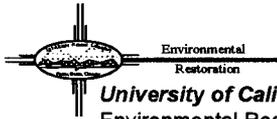


*Steve*



**University of California**  
Environmental Restoration Project, MS M992  
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**U. S. Department of Energy**  
Los Alamos Area Office, MS A316  
Environmental Restoration Program  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544  
505-667-7203/FAX 505-665-4504



Date: September 25, 1996  
Refer to: EM/ER:96-513

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

**SUBJECT: INTERIM ACTION REPORT FOR TA-53, PRS 53-002(a)  
ACTIVITIES**

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Enclosed please find two copies of the Interim Action Completion Report for Technical Area 53, Potential Release Site 53-002(a) interim action activities completed in Fiscal Year 1996.

The Department of Energy has reviewed and approved this report. The approval form is attached to the report.

If you have any questions, please call Gene Gould at (505) 667-0402 or Everett Trollinger at (505) 667-5801.

Sincerely,

  
Jorg Jansen, Program Manager  
LANL/ER Project

Sincerely,

  
Theodore J. Taylor, Program Manager  
DOE/LAO

JJ/TT/bp

- Enclosures: (1) Interim Action Report for TA-53, PRS 53-002(a)  
(2) DOE Approval Form



4327

Cy (w/ encs.):

S. Anderson, NMED-AIP, MS J993  
G. Gould, ESA-EPE, MS G787  
D. Griswold, AL- ERD, MS A906  
J. Harry, EM/ER, MS M992  
B. Hoditschek, NMED-HRMB  
M. Leavitt, NMED-GWQB  
N. Naraine, DOE-HQ, EM-453  
D. Neleigh, EPA, R.6, 6PD-N (2 copies)  
J. Piatt, NMED-SWQB  
M. Shaner, CIO, MS A117 (2 copies)  
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K. Zamora, LAAO, MS A316  
EM/ER File, MS M992

**Interim Action  
Completion Report  
for**

**Potential Release Site  
at TA-53**

**53-002(a), Surface Impoundments**

**Field Unit 2**

**Environmental  
Restoration  
Project**

**September 1996**

**A Department of Energy  
Environmental Cleanup Program**

**Los Alamos**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

LA-UR-96-3315

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**INTERIM ACTION COMPLETION REPORT  
POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE 53-002(a)  
SURFACE IMPOUNDMENTS**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Potential release site (PRS) 53-002(a) consists of two surface impoundments: NE and NW. The surface impoundments, placed in operation in the early 1970s, are located in Technical Area (TA)-53 adjacent to the Los Alamos Meson Physics Facility (LAMPF) (see Figure 1-1). The surface impoundments, which are no longer in use, received sanitary wastes, small amounts of industrial wastes, and radioactive wastes. Sanitary waste is now pumped by lift stations to Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) Central Treatment Facility. Radioactive waste is now treated in the south impoundment [PRS 53-002(b)].

The sludge within the surface impoundments contains low-level radioactive fission products from the accelerator and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), less than 5 parts per million (ppm), as contaminants of potential concern (COPCs).

This PRS is proposed for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) closure for RCRA-regulated hazardous constituents. Non-RCRA-regulated radioactive constituents will be regulated by DOE Orders. A closure plan (Interim Status Closure Plan, Surface Impoundments, TA-53-166 Northeast and TA-53-166 Northwest, Technical Area 53, August 1994, Revision 1) has been prepared for this PRS. Section 5.2.7 of the plan describes actions necessary to stabilize the site before closure.

As a best management practice, the site was stabilized by covering the exposed sludge in the surface impoundments with a geotextile filter fabric cover. The cover stabilizes the site by preventing the intrusion of wildlife into the exposed sludge. By suppressing the generation of dust, the cover also prevents any airborne release of radioactive contaminants.

Weekly inspections of the geotextile cover have shown it to be an effective barrier to wildlife intrusion and an effective method of containing contaminants.

**2.0 INTERIM ACTION**

The surface impoundments were stabilized by installing a geotextile filter fabric cover over the exposed sludge. The cover is similar to a daily landfill cover and is designed to effectively contain contaminants and prevent contact with the sludge by wildlife.

The geotextile filter fabric was spread out over the top of the exposed sludge to the gunite side walls of the dike to form a cover. The areas where the geotextile fabric sections join to form the cover were connected by lapping the sections approximately one foot. The cover is held in-place around the perimeter and at the side laps with 2 x 4 lumber covered with sand bags. The interior area of the cover is held in-place with sand bags. The cover is permeable, which allows rain water to flow through the cover and later evaporate through the cover. The cover will allow additional materials to be removed from the surface impoundments, if required.

**3.0 MONITORING AND CONFIRMATORY SAMPLING**

Not applicable.

**4.0 INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE**

The cover will continue to be inspected weekly as required by 20 NMAC 4.1 Section 265.226(a)(2) until closure is complete.

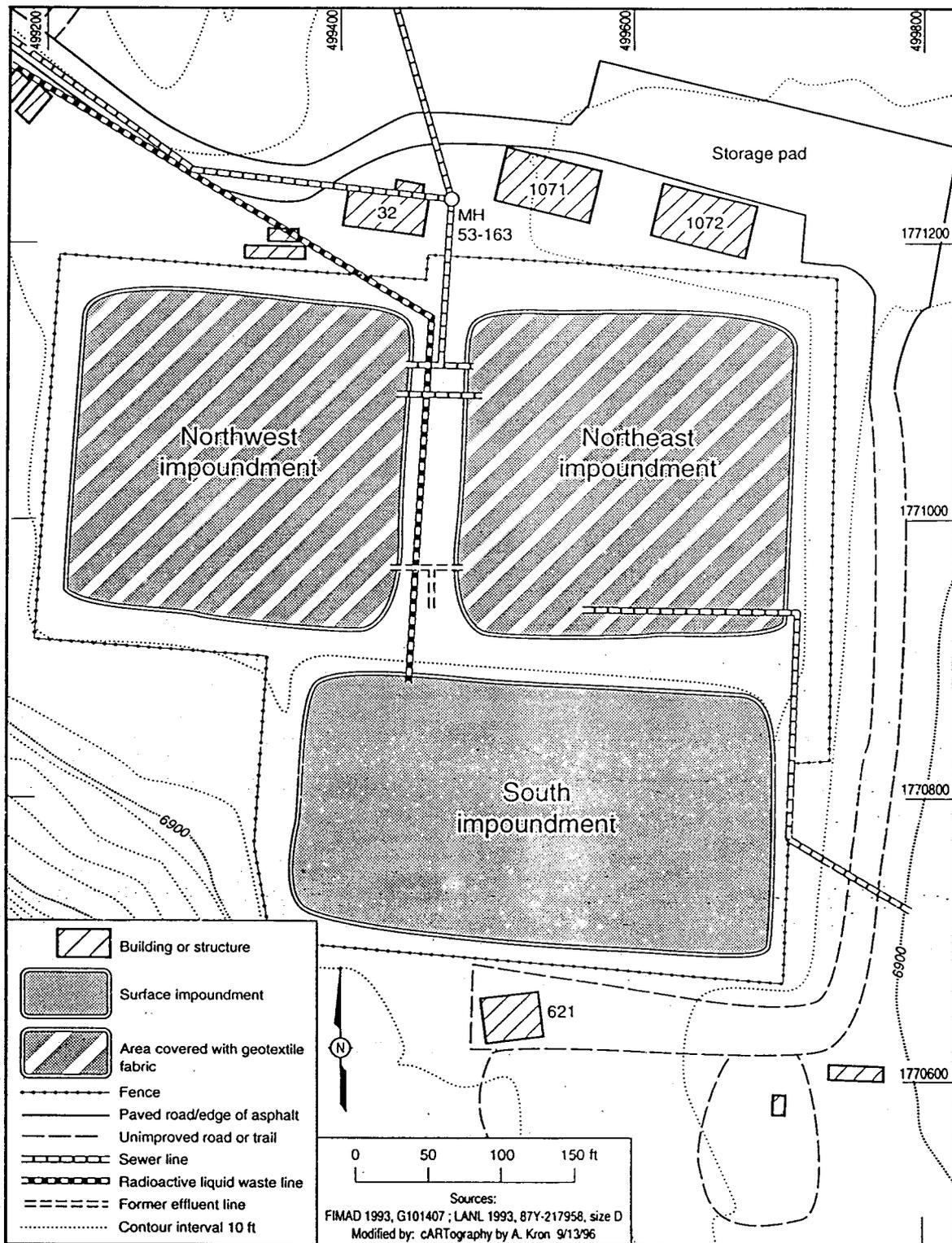


Figure 1-1. Areas covered with geotextile fabric.

**5.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as outer gloves, boot covers, and coveralls were field screened for radioactivity and decontaminated by hand washing. After decontamination, the used PPE was declared clean and segregated from potentially contaminated material for disposal. Potentially contaminated material (decontamination water) was placed in the satellite accumulation area.

**6.0 COST AND SCHEDULE**

Table 6-1 provides detail on the budget versus actual costs to perform this interim action.

**TABLE 6-1  
BUDGET VERSUS ACTUALS**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Anticipated Costs</b>	<b>Approximate Actual Costs</b>
Plan Development	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000
Material cost (cover and sand bags)	\$19,070	\$16,650 \$ 1,000
Mobilization	\$ 800	\$ 800
Installation Cost	\$12,000	\$ 8,530
Waste Disposal	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000
Demobilization	\$ 800	\$ 800
Reporting	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$41,670</b>	<b>\$33,780</b>

The schedule for the project was as follows:

Delivery of materials and staging	June 3-14, 1996
Placement of liners and sand bags	June 17-21, 1996
Complete	June 21, 1996

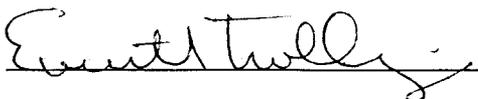
**INTERIM ACTION REPORT  
APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL FORM**

PRS(s) 53-002(a)

The undersigned have reviewed the Interim Action Report and believe that the intent and goals of the Interim Action Plan have been met.

FPL 

Date 9/17/96

FPC 

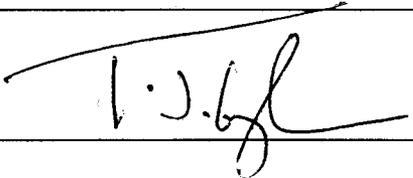
Date 9-17-96

.....

I, Theodore J. Taylor, DOE-LAAO, **APPROVE** , **DISAPPROVE**  the accompanying Interim Action Report for PRS(s) 53-002(a), TA- 53.

The following reasons reflect the decision for disapproval:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: 

Date: 9/29/96