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Comments on the Post-Closure Care Plan for the TA-54 Area L and Area G Landfills

Revisions made at the Sept. 11 and Sept 26 meetings are in **bold**.

(LANL's post-closure plan will be submitted Dec. 1, 1984)

These brief comments are preliminary; the post-closure care required will change as the closure plan and the ground-water monitoring plan/waiver are revised.

For disposal units which have received wastes since Jan. 26, 1983, a special post-closure permit, subject to the post-closure standards of 206.D., is required before closure under interim status may proceed (see 301.A). LANL's landfills--and, until proven otherwise, its surface impoundments--fall into this category. The post-closure standards of 206.D include the ground-water monitoring and corrective action requirements of 206.D.1.

Note that the criterion for a waiver from the ground-water monitoring requirements of 206.D.1 is more stringent than the corresponding interim-status criterion; LANL must show "no potential" for migration of liquid from a regulated unit to the uppermost aquifer (206.D.1.a.(2)(d)). This "no potential" must be shown for all time; there is no time limit specified in the waiver demonstration requirement. **This last sentence is wrong; "no potential" must be shown only for the active life plus 30 years. In LANL's case, this means "no potential" until 2130.**

Post-closure care will include maintenance of the final cover and any other containment structures and ancillary elements, along with monitoring of the facility to ensure that the containment system is functioning as required to meet the general performance standards of 206.B.9.b. and 206.D.2.b. as well as to ensure that the specific requirements of 206.D.6.f. and 206.D.10.f., as applicable, are met. In addition, specific monitoring requirements may be mandated by the final disposition of LANL's interim-status ground-water monitoring plan/waiver. The goal of monitoring must be to detect any movement of any hazardous material early enough to complete corrective action before any significant release to the air, the ground surface, the biota, or to any aquifer or surface water occurs.

Detailed requirements for post-closure care at the surface impoundments of Area L are found in 206.D.6.f. If LANL hopes to close by removing all contaminated materials from beneath the impoundments, the post-closure plan must include a contingency section in case total removal cannot be accomplished.

The semi-annual (visual) inspection of cover, drainage system, security, and monuments described in LANL's post-closure plan is not adequate. To evaluate the condition and operation of the cover, an internal (i.e. vadose zone) monitoring system will be required. Visual inspections need to be more frequent than semi-annual.



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Post-Closure Comments, Continued

The "soil, sediment, surface water and biota sampling" mentioned has not been described in sufficient detail. Analyses for metals must be for total metals.

Radiological surveillance has not been described in sufficient detail. **The EID believes its mandate is flexible enough to require monitoring for any and all biohazards at regulated hazardous waste landfills. LANL may, however, defer its discussion of radiological post-closure monitoring until its Part B submittal.**

In contrast to Section 206.C.2.h.(4), which applies to disposal units which have not received waste since Jan. 26, 1983, Section 206.D.2. allows no administrative modification of the length of the post-closure care period in the initial permit, although this period may be modified once it has begun. It is the belief of the EID, that the nominal 30-year care period is too short for those disposal facilities where public health hazards will remain after the thirty years have passed. For generators to fail to assure care for these wastes is to inequitably pass on to future generations these hazards and the remedial costs associated with them. The laws of the United States (specifically CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601 et. seq.) continue a generator's liability for its wastes indefinitely. LANL is therefore, under law, perpetually responsible for its wastes. The EID cannot envision any process which will remove or render harmless the hazardous wastes which have been disposed of at LANL. LANL may, therefore, wish to propose to EID a post-closure care period appropriate to the chemical and radiological wastes interred in its landfills, rather than the nominal thirty-year care period.

At the Sept. 26 meeting, LANL declined to commit to greater than 30 years of post-closure care.

(Added Oct.1). The EID will require LANL to revise its post-closure monitoring scheme if and when appropriate new monitoring technologies become available. LANL must also revise its post-closure plan, prior to its Dec. 1 submittal date, if any other activities at LANL, besides those activities conducted at Areas L and G, are found to constitute disposal of hazardous waste.