

TATJ3

VOLUNTARY CORRECTIVE ACTION FACT SHEET FOR PRS 73-002**Description and History**

Potential Release Site (PRS) 73-002, a former incinerator and associated ash disposal area, is located north-northwest of the existing Los Alamos Airport terminal building. The primary purpose of the incinerator was to destroy classified documents from the Laboratory; however, it was used for this purpose for only about one year because of incomplete combustion problems. The incinerator was also used to incinerate municipal trash from the townsite. The incinerator equipment and stack have been removed, but no information on the removal operation is available.

The ash disposal area is located on the south slope of Pueblo Canyon, immediately north of the incinerator building, and covers an area of approximately 30,000 square feet. The ash ranges in thickness from less than one foot to greater than eight feet.

Contaminants

Based on the results of sampling events conducted in 1996 and 1997, several contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) have been tentatively identified. Several inorganic chemicals were detected at concentrations exceeding their background values (BVs). Of these, lead is the most notable with a maximum concentration of 13,100 ppm. Other inorganic chemicals exceeding BVs are antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, calcium, chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, mercury, nickel, potassium, selenium, silver, sodium, thallium, and zinc.

The list of detected organic chemicals includes the pesticides 4,4'-DDE, 4,4'-DDT, and alpha chlordane. Dioxins and furans were detected at concentrations in the part per trillion to low part per billion range. Several volatile and semivolatile organic chemicals were also detected, including aroclor-1254.

Radiological constituents, U-234 and U-238, were detected above BVs in two samples collected from PRS 73-002. Additionally, waste characterization samples collected from within one of the incinerator building's drainlines (PRS 73-006), also contained low levels of Pu-239. Additional sampling of the ash debris was completed for radiological analyses, however these results are not yet available.

Rationale

This PRS has a site ranking score of 22. The site is located on the side of Pueblo Canyon and the ash has been considered as representing debris in a water course. The site is contained within potential nesting/roosting habitat for the peregrine falcon and the Mexican spotted owl, and contains several bioaccumulatable chemicals that have the potential to migrate into the sediments and ephemeral stream at the bottom of Pueblo Canyon. Therefore, a corrective action will be initiated at this site.

Voluntary Corrective Action

The corrective action at this site will involve the complete removal of the ash and associated debris, and any contaminated soil beneath the ash and debris. The outfall areas of the associated PRSs 73-004(a) (incinerator building septic system) and 73-006 (incinerator building drainlines) will also be removed since they are incorporated with the ash material. Details of the ash removal have not been finalized, but preliminary planning of removal activities involve the combined efforts of a vacuum truck and other heavy equipment capable of moving large volumes of material with minimum disturbance to the surrounding environment. Subsequent to ash and debris removal, VCA activities include the collection of confirmation/verification samples and implementation and maintenance of site restoration, which may involve the installation of erosion control matting and seeding.

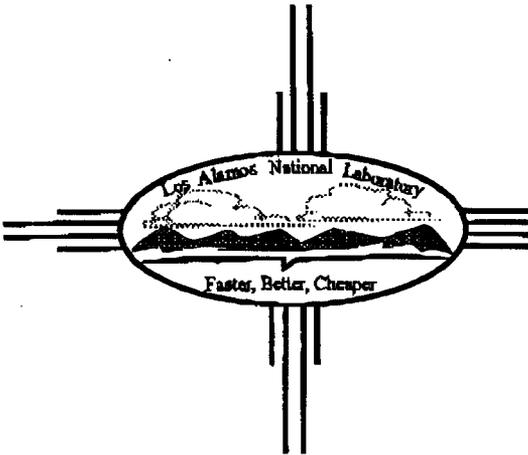


Anticipated Waste Types and Volumes

ITEM	WASTE TYPE	ANTICIPATED VOLUME
Incinerator ash and debris	Special waste (potentially low-level radioactive)	3,700 cu yd
Contaminated soils	Non hazardous	200 cu yd
Sampling materials and PPE	Sanitary	2 cu yd

Estimated Cost

Cost estimates associated with the VCA activities at PRS 73-002 vary dramatically since the details of the ash and debris removal and disposal have not been finalized. The cost for remedial activities, including planning, cleanup, waste disposal, site restoration, and report preparation currently range from \$300,000 to \$4,000,000. The factor that most affects the final cost is waste disposal. The final cost of the VCA increases significantly if the ash is disposed as low-level radioactive special waste.



Environmental Restoration Project

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Comments: <u>John - attached is a VCA/VCN fact sheet for PRS 73-002, which is on the 19 October 1998 monthly agenda. Val</u>	
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