

United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Carlsbad Field Office  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

DATE: August 6, 2001

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: CBFO:QA:SAV:VW:01-1085:UFC:2300

SUBJECT: Surveillance (S-01-31) of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) TRU  
Waste Operations

TO: James Nunz, LAAO

On July 16-17, 2001, the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) performed surveillance S-01-31 of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) TRU Waste Operations. The surveillance team concluded that the LANL quality assurance program relating to Document Control and Operations was adequate in accordance with the CBFO QAPD. The audit team also concluded that LANL procedures were being satisfactorily implemented and that the evaluated processes were effective. The CBFO surveillance report is attached.

There were no CBFO corrective action reports or Observations issued as a result of the surveillance. One Recommendation was issued for consideration by LANL management.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the surveillance, please contact me at (505) 234-7423.

  
Samuel A. Vega  
Quality Assurance Manager

Attachment

010807



James Nunz

-2-

August 6, 2001

cc: w/attachment  
T. Harms, DOE-HQ  
K. Watson, CBFO  
L. Chism, CBFO  
M. Eagle, EPA  
S. Monroe, EPA  
S. Zappe, NMED  
B. Walker, EEG  
D. Winters, DNFSB  
P. Rogers, LANL  
M. Gavett, LANL  
M. Gerle, WTS  
T. Bowden, CTAC



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
CARLSBAD FIELD OFFICE

SURVEILLANCE REPORT  
OF THE  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL)

Los Alamos, New Mexico

SURVEILLANCE NUMBER S-01-31

July 16-17, 2001



TRU WASTE CHARACTERIZATION ACTIVITIES

Prepared by: *Charles L. Riggs*

Charles L. Riggs  
Surveillance Team Leader

Date: 07/27/01

Approved for Issue by: *Samuel A. Vega*

Samuel A. Vega  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Quality Assurance Manager

Date: 8/6/01

## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Surveillance S-01-31 was conducted to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) TRU Waste Characterization Project (TWCP) quality assurance and technical program as it relates to the Document Control program and TRU Waste Characterization activities. The surveillance was conducted at LANL in Los Alamos, New Mexico on July 16-17, 2001. The surveillance team did not identify any areas of concern.

## 2.0 SCOPE

CBFO Surveillance S-01-31 was conducted to evaluate the adequacy of the written program and implementation and effectiveness of the LANL Document Control program and TRU Waste Characterization activities.

## 3.0 SURVEILLANCE TEAM

Charlie Riggs  
Steve Davis

Surveillance Team Leader, CTAC  
Surveillance Team Member, CTAC

## 4.0 SURVEILLANCE PARTICIPANTS

A list of personnel contacted during the course of the surveillance is provided as Attachment 1 of this report.

## 5.0 SUMMARY OF SURVEILLANCE RESULTS

### 5.1 Surveillance Activities

Details of surveillance activities, along with the specific objective evidence reviewed and the results of the reviews are contained within the surveillance checklists. The checklists are maintained as QA records. No conditions adverse to quality were identified.

The surveillance team evaluated the activities to verify compliance with the CBFO *Quality Assurance Program Document*, CAO-94-1012. The surveillance team determined that RFETS adequately defined the Document Control program for the project. As a result, the surveillance team concluded that the QA program requirements related to the activities evaluated during the surveillance were adequate, satisfactorily implemented and effective. In addition the surveillance team evaluated the understanding that management and operation personnel had of recent problems that had occurred with shipments received at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) including the causes of the recent work stoppage at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL).

### **5.1.1 Document Control**

The surveillance team evaluated the adequacy of the documents depicting the LANL Document Control program. LANL procedures TWCP-QP-1.1-001, *Procedure Preparation, Review, Approval, Revision, and Interim Changes*, and TWCP-QP-1.1-002, *Document Control*, depict the preparation, review, approval, issuance, and revision of TRU Project documents and defines the responsibilities for these activities. The LANL TRU Project Document Control program has been satisfactorily implemented and is effective.

### **5.1.2 Operations**

The surveillance team evaluated the understanding that management and operation personnel had of recent problems that had occurred with shipments received at WIPP including the causes of the recent work stoppage at the INEEL.

Discussions were held to determine what measures are in place to prevent a similar condition from occurring at LANL. Attempts were also made to ascertain what other issues or pressures exist that might drive management or operation personnel to take shortcuts or otherwise circumvent the system.

It is the opinion of the audit team that similar conditions are unlikely to occur at LANL due to the administrative controls in place. However, to further enhance the assurance that such a condition does not arise, the audit team recommends that the use of a flag be considered in the new automated data system that would prevent such an occurrence.

## **6.0 CORRECTIVE ACTIONS, OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS**

There are no corrective actions required nor observations presented as a result of this surveillance.

### **6.1 Recommendation**

The audit team recommends that the use of a flag or similar constraint be considered in the new automated data system that would prevent an occurrence such as the use of NDA equipment that has not been properly certified.

## **7.0 ATTACHMENT**

Attachment 1: Personnel Contacted During the Surveillance

PERSONNEL CONTACTED DURING SURVEILLANCE S-01-31

LANL PERSONNEL CONTACTED				
NAME	ORG/TITLE	PRE-SURVEILLANCE MEETING	CONTACTED DURING AUDIT	POST SURVEILLANCE MEETING
Adams, Andres	TWCP; OPS Leader VE/Repack	X	X	
Allen, Garry	LANL; TWCP Proj			X
Betts, Stephen	LANL/E-ET; NDA Operations		X	
Fabryka-Martin, June	E-ET/LANL; Deputy Site Project Mgr	X	X	X
Fernandez, Ruby Ann	E-ET/LANL; Training	X		X
Garcia; Mary Ann	E-ET/LANL; Training	X		
Gavett, Marji	E-ET/LANL; Site Project QA	X	X	X
Gibson, Yonne	TWCP; QA	X		X
Gillespie, Paul	Team 21; ATL	X		
Hanna, Jonathan	Team 21; Auditor	X		
Harper, Johnny	EET; Deputy Group Leader			X
Leonard, Pat	LANL; QA-TWCP			X
Lin, Mavis	TWCP; SPM Team	X		
Martinez, David V.	C-ACT/LANL; HGAS	X		
Martinez, Manuel	TWCP; SQA	X		X

PERSONNEL CONTACTED DURING SURVEILLANCE S-01-31

LANL PERSONNEL CONTACTED				
NAME	ORG/TITLE	PRE-SURVEILLANCE MEETING	CONTACTED DURING AUDIT	POST SURVEILLANCE MEETING
Martinez, Paul	LANL/E-ET; RTR		X	
Medina, Patricia	LANL/E-ET; Budget Analyst			X
Ortega, Laura C.	TWCP; HGAS OPS Leader	X	X	X
Patton, Patricia	TWCP; RMDC	X		
Polley, Mark	LANL/E-ET; Transportation Official		X	
Saunders, Lori	TWCP; QA	X		X
Souza, Larry	LANL/TWCP; QA	X	X	
Wander, Sandy	LANL/E-ET; Waste Certification Official		X	
Weir; Shannon	TWCP; RMDC	X	X	X
Zill, Richard	Team 21; Auditor	X		
Zoltai, John	LANL/E-ET; TWCP MIS Manager		X	