STATEMENT OF BASIS/FINAL DECISION AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS SUMMARY

REGION VI
ID # 0518
NM5890110518

U.S. Department of Energy
Sandia National Laboratories
Albuquerque, New Mexico
(Signed December 31, 1995)

Facility/Unit Type:	**Research, development, and testing of nuclear weapons components and systems**
Contaminants:	**Diesel fuel, Mercury, Depleted uranium (DU), Waste fuel, and PCB oil**
Media:	**Soil**
Remedy:	**No further action**

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

RCRA authority was used to compel corrective action activities at the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) facility which is located within the boundaries of Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The facility occupies land owned by the Department of Energy (DOE), with an additional 14,920 acres of land provided by land-use permits with KAFB, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Isleta Indian Reservation. The site is on a high, arid mesa approximately five miles east of the Rio Grande river.

The primary mission of SNL is to provide engineering and testing support for nuclear weapon components and systems. It has been involved in nuclear weapons research, component development, assembly, testing, and other nuclear activities since 1945. SNL consists of five technical areas (TAs) and several test areas. Assembly of weapons ceased at the facility in the late 1940s, and since 1949, SNL has been dedicated to research, development, and testing. SNL currently employs approximately 8,400 people and KAFB employs approximately 21,000 people.

The current surrounding area land use is industrial. There is a population of approximately 650,000 people within a 50-mile radius of KAFB. There are approximately seven drinking water wells located on the KAFB property. The use of these wells is cycled on and off. There is also a large cluster of city-owned drinking water wells located just north of KAFB. The 13 no further action (NFA) sites listed below are of varying distances from these drinking water well. However, because the vadose zone throughout most of KABF is approximately 500 feet, soil rather than groundwater was the media of concern at these sites.

Sandia Corporation operated SNL, for DOE, from the time of its opening in 1945 until September 1993, when Martin Marietta Corporation took over operations.

SNL received a Corrective Action permit pursuant RCRA from EPA effective August 26, 1993. The permit requires the investigation of approximately 200 SWMUs. RCRA facility investigation (RFI) work plans for all of the SWMUs must be submitted within four years of the effective date of the permit. To date, SNL has submitted eight RFI work plans and is currently ahead of its permit schedule.

On September 28, 1994, DOE/SNL submitted a request to remove a total of 22 SWMUs from its corrective action permit. The 22 NFA site proposals were considered "administrative type" NFAs by SNL because they were not considered to have released hazardous wastes to the environment. The 22 SWMUs described in the proposal had not been included in previous RFI work plans. Most of the evidence presented consisted of interviews with DOE/SNL employees, and a review of historical records, maps, aerial photos, etc.

EXPOSURE PATHWAYS

Soil is the potential exposure pathway of concern. The nearest human receptors are the employees who work on the KAFB property. There

CONTAMINATION DETECTED AND CLEANUP GOALS

Media	Estimated Volume	Contaminant	Maximum Concentration (ppm)	MCL Action Level (ppm)	MCL Cleanup Goal	Point of Compliance
Soil	Not applicable	Diesel fuel Mercury Depleted uranium Waste fuel PCB oil	Varies but all concentrations less than action levels	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

are no sensitive environments located in immediate proximity of the 13 NFA sites.

SELECTED REMEDY

EPA reviewed the proposal and determined that 13 of the 22 SWMUs required no further action based on historical records, aerial photographs, employee interviews, analytical data, and/or field surveys which show no or insignificant release(s) of hazardous wastes to the environment. The 13 NFA areas contained insignificant or nonexistent levels of contamination and no remedial action was performed. The remaining nine SWMUs either did not qualify for no further action, or will be the subject of further investigation.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES CONSIDERED

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public meeting was held by SNL on November 9, 1994 at the South Broadway Cultural Center, 1025 Broadway S.E., Albuquerque, NM. Nineteen people attended the meeting, including representatives of SNL, DOE and its contractors. On December 9, 1994, EPA received four written comments from the San Jose Community Awareness Council. The comments concerned SWMU 3, the chemical disposal pit; SWMU 43, the radioactive material storage yard; SWMU 135, the building 906 septic system; and SWMU 195, the experimental test pit. None of these SWMUs were approved for no further action.

EPA issued a Public Notice on July 10, 1995, which announced the beginning of a 45-day public comment period. No request was made for a public hearing, and no additional public comments were received.

NEXT STEPS

EPA will notify DOE/SNL and each person on the public comment mailing list of the final decision. The final decision will become effective thirty days after service of notice of the decision, unless a later date is specified or review is requested under 40 CFR 124.

KEYWORDS:
soil; diesel fuel, mercury, depleted uranium (DU), waste fuel, PCB oil, no further action

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