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Public Involvement Plan Material Disposal Area B

Prepared by
Environmental Stewardship Division–
Environmental Remediation and Surveillance Program

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The Environmental Stewardship Division (ENV) of Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory or LANL) has developed this plan to inform and to seek input from the Los Alamos community and especially from the landowners and business owners along DP Road. Material Disposal Area (MDA) B is located on the south side of the commercial businesses along DP Road. The scope of the MDA B project is to remove, by excavation, the contents that the Laboratory disposed of in trenches from 1944 to 1948. The MDA B project will consider community participation and concerns during key activities during the life cycle of the project.

The principal objectives of this Public Involvement Plan are to communicate the following purposes of the MDA B project:

1. Evaluate the contents of MDA B during excavation and proper disposition of removed contents.
2. Assess the nature and extent of residual contamination, if any, related to the Laboratory's historical disposal activities.
3. Involve public participation before changes that may occur to DP Road and periodically thereafter.
4. Participate in any corrective actions that may be required in the future.

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Public Participation Manual (1996).

2.0 PRINCIPLES

Underlying all strategies and actions is the belief that the landowners of Los Alamos County, and especially DP Road, have the right to know about issues that affect their health and welfare and to know about plans to remove and/or make harmless existing pollution conditions. This public involvement plan has been developed with the following principles:

1. **Access to information:** A record of all public meetings will be kept. Technical documents will be placed in locations available to the community.
2. **Clarity:** Scientific information and regulatory procedures will be presented in terms understandable to the public.
3. **Responsiveness:** All questions by the public will be answered in a timely manner.
4. **Multilevel communication:** A variety of methods will be used to reach out to the public. Newsletters, direct mail, community meetings, website postings, and articles in the printed media will be employed.
5. **Timeliness:** The public will receive adequate notice of meetings, and meetings will be scheduled at a time and place that are convenient and comfortable. Adequate time to review materials will also be provided.
6. **Coordination:** Good communication among all concerned agencies and community organizations will be critical to the success of the process.
7. **Accessibility of personnel:** Both the Laboratory and the Department of Energy will be available to the community.

8. **Educate:** The public will receive briefings on the investigation and the corrective action processes so that they are able to provide informed input to the process.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY

3.1 Background

MDA B is an inactive 24,400 square meters (.603-acre) fenced disposal site located on DP Mesa, north of Los Alamos Canyon. The western edge of MDA B is located 488 meters (1600 ft) east of the intersection of DP Road and Trinity Drive. The northern, fenced boundary of the site is within a short distance of DP Road. A variety of commercial businesses are located north of DP Road directly opposite the center and western sections of MDA B.

MDA B was the first common disposal area for radioactive waste generated at the Laboratory and it received waste related to the Laboratory process from 1944 to 1948. A site location map is included as Figure 1.0-1. There are no official waste inventory records for MDA B. According to historical data, anecdotal information, and process knowledge, the types of waste disposed of at the landfill were highly variable. Disposal trenches may contain radioactive and chemically contaminated laboratory wastes, debris, and waste products from a water boiler “reactor” as well as containers of solvents, chemical mixtures, corrosive liquids, and gasses. Initial disposal was in trenches excavated from the far western boundary, working eastward. Historical records state that MDA B consisted of several disposal trenches approximately 300 ft long, 15 ft wide, and 12 ft deep and that MDA B included at least one smaller, shallower trench on the eastern end of the site. Based on investigation and analysis of available historical information, MDA B is divided into 10 sections or areas based on disposal history, suspected trench contents, and geophysical characteristics.



Figure 1.0-1. MDA B Setting

3.2 MDA B Investigation Project Description

The MDA-B project objectives are to:

1. Remove the contents of historical trenches,
2. Characterize the types of contents removed for proper disposal,
3. Characterize any residual contamination in the soil and rock adjacent to the disposal trench, and
4. Gather additional data needed to evaluate other potentially needed remedial alternative.

Achieving these objectives will occur during the direct excavation of the MDA-B disposal trenches and during the installation of subsurface soil borings. Currently, the disposal trenches are covered with varying amounts of fill and asphalt. The western two-thirds of the site is asphalt covered with an unknown thickness of fill over the trench contents. The eastern one-third of the site was used as an experimental cover location and has at least 8.75 ft of cover soil placed as test plots. Additional fill of unknown thickness may be present over the waste.

3.3 Community Information

The DP Road area contains 30 landowners registered with the county of Los Alamos. DP Road houses about 16 businesses, including a fire station, a restaurant, a building supply company, and the *Los Alamos Monitor*.

4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Public Assessment: The Environmental Stewardship Division will conduct interviews of the majority of landowners and business owners on DP Road to

- inform them of the scope of the project,
- determine their key concerns,
- determine the best way to keep them apprised of the progress of the project, and
- determine how best to interact to perform the baseline constituent assessment.

4.1 Baseline Constituent Assessment

The project will perform a baseline assessment of all DP Road buildings to determine existing conditions.

4.2 Public Meetings

The Environmental Stewardship Division will organize and conduct public meetings to provide an opportunity for the community to learn about the status of the project and to give the community additional information about the project. These sessions and meetings will consist of project and Department of Energy staff members who will be available to answer specific questions from the community. Notices announcing these sessions and meetings will be in the fact sheets and/or published in local newspapers.

4.3 Document Review

A repository of documents on the project will be created and maintained at the project office at 278 DP Road. The project's website, www.erproject.lanl.gov, will also post project documents. However, the large file size of maps and graphics makes it difficult to have complete versions of technical documents posted on the website.

4.4 Newsletters, Flyers

Approximately every quarter, the Department of Environmental Protection, with assistance from other agencies and the public involvement team, will prepare and mail project updates that describe the activities taking place on the project.

4.5 Project Website

A website, www.erproject.lanl.gov/MDAB, has been developed to provide comprehensive information and the latest developments on the project.

4.6 Mailing List

The Environmental Stewardship Division will develop and maintain a mailing list of all properties within and immediately surrounding the project site for interested parties including, but not limited to, government officials, Los Alamos Public Schools, and county commissioners. The list will be used to distribute newsletters, fact sheets, notice of meetings, and other project mailings.

4.7 Public Involvement Team

The Environmental Stewardship Division will support a public involvement team that will coordinate community outreach and public education activities. The team will consist of the environmental communication project leader, the public participation coordinator, the MDA B project leader, and representation from LANL Public Affairs, Community Relations, and from the Department of Energy.

4.8 Community Advisory Group and/ or a Community Facilitator

Throughout the project, the Department of Environmental Protection and the public involvement team will assess the need for a community advisory group and/or a community facilitator, and a group will be reconstituted if necessary.

4.9 Environmental Communication Project Leader

The Environmental Stewardship Division has an environmental communication project leader who will conduct the process and ensure its effectiveness and coordination.

4.10 Public Participation Coordinator

The Environmental Stewardship Division has appointed a coordinator who will carry out the project's public participation plan. The coordinator will organize public meetings, produce summaries of project documents and newsletters, develop a project mailing list, and develop and manage the website and public repositories.

5.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

5.1 Department of Energy

The Department of Energy has two roles. As a government agency that regulates environmental standards, it first must determine if the removal of MDA B contents was adequate and must approve the final remedy. Its second role is to make sure that the public is protected and informed about the project and that community concerns are identified and considered before any removal plans. The Department of Energy has assigned the secondary responsibility to the Environmental Remediation Group of LANL's Environmental Stewardship Division.

5.2 Environmental Stewardship Division

The Environmental Stewardship Division will be responsible for the following:

- Managing the public involvement process through its environmental communication project leader
- Appointing a public involvement coordinator to execute this plan
- Organizing and holding public meetings
- Preparing summary documents and project updates
- Providing a facilitator, if needed, to attend meetings of the community advisory group.
- Maintaining a mailing list of all interested members of the community
- Maintaining the public information repositories
- Creating and maintaining an Internet website for the MDA B investigation
- Assisting in the development of educational outreach opportunities for the public related to ongoing work at the site
- Providing adequate prior notice of all public meetings
- Responding to all written comments and working with the responsible parties and their technical consultants to answer technical questions that are submitted

6.0 KEY CONTACTS

Primary Contacts

Name	Organization	Phone	Email	Role
Patrick Woehrle	CER-DO	5-7778	patrickw@lanl.gov	Government Relations
Ken Adkins	CER-1	5-8394	kadkins@lanl.gov	Government Relations
Kathy DeLucas	CER-20	7-5225	duke@lanl.gov	Media relations
Elmer Torres	CER-1	7-3194	ectorres@lanl.gov	Tribal Relations
Dave McInroy	ENV-ERS	7-0819	mcinroy@lanl.gov	Project Director
Bill Criswell	ENV-ERS	5-5886	bcriswell@lanl.gov	Program Manager
Mitch Goldberg	ENV-ECR	5-4567	goldberg@lanl.gov	Project Leader
Dwain Farley	ENV-ECR	7-4586	dfarley@lanl.gov	Team Leader
Lorrie Bonds Lopez	ENV-DO	7-0216	lorriel@lanl.gov	Outreach Project Leader
Sharon Potter	LATA	2-1809	spotter@lata.com	Outreach Coordinator

Secondary Contacts

Name	Organization	Phone	Email	Role
Max Baker	LA County	662-8080	laadministrator@lac.losalamos.nm.us	County Administrator
Richard (Rich) Bohn	LA County	662-8120	—	Community Development Director
Kyle Zimmerman	LA County	6-8150	EPM@lac.losalamos.nm.us	County Engineer

Public Involvement Objectives

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform the public early and thoroughly about actions that will affect them. 2. Ensure that business access and commercial activities are not disrupted. 3. Consult with business owners and landowners to solve issues such as parking.
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Drivers for This Public Involvement

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need to install traffic control and safety barriers 2. Imminent pending investigation

7.0 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

Internal/Regulatory/Partnering Stakeholders		
Target s Stakeholders	Expected Level of involvement	Who Will Notify
LANL Communications and External Relations (CER): Lillian Montoya-Rael Ken Adkins Kathy DeLucas Elmer Torres David McCumber	Collaborate	Ken Adkins
Department of Energy	Involved	Bill Criswell
New Mexico Environment Department	Regulator	Bill Criswell

External Stakeholder by Order of Notification

Target Stakeholders	Expected Level of involvement	Who Will Notify
LA County Manager, Max Baker	One pager: timing, process, truck traffic	Patrick Woehrle, Dave Lyons, Ken Adkins, Dave McInroy, Bill Criswell
LA County Council, sub-committees		
Senators Domenici and Bingaman (Telcon)	One pager: timing, process, truck traffic	Patrick Woehrle, Dave Lyons, Ken Adkins, Dave McInroy, Bill Criswell
Los Alamos County State Representative (Wallace)	—	Ken Adkins
LA County Council	—	Ken Adkins
LA County Staff	—	Mitch Goldberg
LA Public Schools	—	Mitch Goldberg
Los Alamos Commerce & Development Corp.	—	Mitch Goldberg
Business and Land Owners on DP Road	Consult	Lorrie Bonds Lopez, Sharon Potter, Debora Hall
LA Chamber of Commerce	—	Mitch Goldberg
Pueblos (especially with the four Accord Pueblos)	—	Elmer Torres

Project Specific Key Messages

1. Listen, protect, reduce risks, go beyond compliance.
2. We keep the public informed, listen to concerns, and use their input.
3. Protecting people and the environment is part of every decision we make and every action we take.
4. We are doing all we can to safely and unobtrusively complete our work.

8.0 KEY MILESTONES

Key Milestones

Milestone	Begin by	Complete by
Internal plan	8/24/2005	9/9/2005
Meet with county to hone plan	9/14/2005	12/31/2005
Meet with public schools to get input on plan	January 2006	—
Meet with business owners individually	January 2006	February 2006
Meet with landowners individually	January 2006	February 2006
General meeting for initial notification for interested parties	Week of January 30, 2006	—
Mail notification	Week of January 30, 2006	—
Signage	Ongoing see plan	—
Public notice in news media	January 2006	Through project
Conduct existing constituents assessment	2/1/2006	2/28/2006
Mail and distribute feedback cards	2/28/2006	—
Second meeting with business owners for feedback	3/16/2006	3/30/2006

Note: Key dates only—detail to go into the implementation plan in Appendix 2.

9.0 MEETING PLANS AND RESOURCES

9.1 Public Meetings

9.1.1 Public Meeting 1 Details

Date: October 15, 2005

Venue: TA-21, Building 210

Moderator: Lorrie Bonds Lopez

9.1.2 Public Meeting 2 Details

Date: March 15, 2006

Venue: TA-21, Building 210

Moderator: Lorrie Bonds Lopez

9.2 Resources/Posters/Handouts/Mailings

- MDA B fact sheet
- Work schedule
- Mail notice
- Signage copy
- Map