



SUSANA MARTINEZ  
Governor  
JOHN A. SANCHEZ  
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303  
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030  
[www.nmenv.state.nm.us](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us)



RYAN FLYNN  
Cabinet Secretary  
BUTCH TONGATE  
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 18, 2015

Christine Gelles, Acting Manager  
Environmental Projects Office  
Los Alamos Field Office, DOE  
3747 West Jemez Rd, MS A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael Brandt, Associate Director  
Environment, Safety, Health  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, MS K491  
Los Alamos, NM 87545



**RE: CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION  
THREE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS  
MIDDLE MORTANDAD/TEN SITE AGGREGATE AREA  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-11-068**

Dear Ms. Gelles and Mr. Brandt:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security L.L.C.'s (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) *Request for Certificates of Completion for Twenty-Seven Solid Waste Management Units and Ten Areas of Concern in the Middle Mortandad/Ten Site Aggregate Area*, dated August 31, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0297.

Several solid waste management units (SWMUs) and areas of concern (AOC) were recommended for corrective action complete in the *Investigation Report for the Middle Mortandad/Ten Site Aggregate Area, Revision 2* (Report), dated February 2008 (LA-UR-08-0336/EP2008-0035). NMED issued an Approval with Direction (AWD) for the Report on April 1, 2008.

NMED hereby issues certificates of completion without controls for the following sites pursuant to Section VII.E.6.b of the Consent Order.



**SWMU 04-001** is an inactive firing pit that was constructed in 1945 and abandoned in 1946 located in former Technical Area (TA) 04. Former TA-04, also known as Alpha Site, lies within the current boundaries of TA-63 and TA-52. The firing pit measured approximately 10 ft. x 10 ft. High explosives (HE) were used as an energy source in firing experiments, and the shots ranged in size from 0.5 to 200 lbs. The debris in the vicinity of the firing pit included wire and sharpnel. Potential contaminants included HE, natural and depleted uranium, lead, and beryllium. In 1985, the pit was cleaned of all debris, backfilled, and contoured. No radioactive soil contamination was detected, non-radioactive contamination was not addressed at that time. The site was subsequently included in the investigation of Consolidated Unit (CU) 04-001-99. Investigations were conducted in 1995, 1998, and 2004 to define the nature and extent of contamination. The results of the investigations indicate that there are no potential unacceptable risks or doses from residual contamination for the industrial and residential land use scenarios. The results of the ecological risk-screening assessment indicate no potential unacceptable risk to ecological receptors at the site.

**SWMU 04-002** is a 20-ft. wide canyon-side surface disposal area associated with SWMU 04-001. The site is located on the north-facing slope of Mortandad Canyon, immediately north of SWMU 04-001. After a shot was fired the residual material from the firing site was bulldozed over the edge of the canyon and into the area designated as the surface disposal site. The shot debris consisted of cables, wires, and possibly small amounts of uranium, beryllium, lead, aluminum, and HE. The site was included in the investigation of CU 04-001-99. Investigations were conducted in 1995 and 2004 to define the nature and extent of contamination. The results of investigations indicate that there are no potential unacceptable risks or doses from residual contamination for the industrial and residential land use scenarios. The results of the ecological risk-screening assessment indicate no potential unacceptable risk to ecological receptors at the site.

**SWMU 04-003(b)** is the former drainline and outfall from a laboratory control building located at former TA-04. The outfall discharged into Mortandad Canyon. The building was demolished and partially removed in 1956. A concrete storm drain, debris, and the drainpipe were removed during a cleanup action conducted in 1985. No radioactive contamination was detected in soils. The site was included in the investigation of CU 04-001-99. Investigations were conducted in 1994, 1995, and 2004 to define the nature and extent of contamination. The results of the investigations indicate that there are no potential unacceptable risks or doses from residual contamination for the industrial and residential land use scenarios. The results of the ecological risk-screening assessment indicate no potential unacceptable risk to ecological receptors at the site.

NMED has determined that SWMUs 04-001, 04-002, and 04-003(b) qualify for corrective action complete without controls status. Although corrective action is complete under the Consent Order, the Permittees must continue to comply with all applicable state and federal regulations. If new information becomes available that indicates that these sites may pose a risk to human health or the environment, NMED may require additional investigations and corrective action at these sites.

Ms. Gelles and Mr. Brandt  
May 18, 2015  
Page 3

Please contact Neelam Dhawan at (505) 476-6042, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John E. Kieling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

John E. Kieling  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: K. Roberts, NMED-RPD  
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993  
L. King, EPA 6PD-N  
C. Rodriguez, DOE LASO, MS A316  
T. Haagenstad, EP-CAP, MS M992

File: 2015 LANL, Certificates of Completion for SWMUs in MMTS  
LANL 11-068