



## ER Site No. 10: Burial Mounds (Bunker Area North of Pendulum Site)

ADS: 1333  
Operable Unit: Canyons Test Area

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### Site History

The Burial Mounds were located north of the Pendulum Site ([ER Site 59](#)) and east of Manzano Base, approximately 1.4 miles north on Pendulum Road from the intersection with Coyote Springs Road. The site is immediately adjacent to an arroyo that flows into Arroyo del Coyote. It included ten distinct soil mounds and one vermiculite mound. The surrounding terrain is relatively flat, gradually sloping to the west towards the arroyo.

The Comprehensive Environmental Assessment and Response Program (CEARP) and RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) describe burial mounds in the area that were the result of piling up test debris on the ground surface and subsequently covering the piles with dirt. In addition, the RFA describes a subsurface burial area in the vicinity based on site personnel interviews. More recent site inspections and aerial photographs confirmed the presence of the mounds and an irregular surface that may have been a burial area, if one existed (the dimensions of the burial area were also unknown). In addition, there were several areas where debris/scrap was present at the surface.

The site occurs in a valley between bedrock cored ridges/mountains to the east and west. The shallow subsurface geology is comprised of a thin layer of alluvial sediments overlying granitic bedrock. This area of SNL is characterized by considerable structural complexity in the subsurface. Several major fault systems with different orientations and offsets intersect the general area.

Depth to ground water is unknown. The water table may occur in unconsolidated material but most likely will occur in fractured bedrock.

## Constituents of Concern

DU

Be

High Explosives (HE)

## Current Hazards

There are no current hazards at this site related to contamination of the surface or subsurface soils. All structures have been removed from the site.

## Current Status of Work

Operable Unit 1333 RFI Work Plan was submitted for approval in January 1996, but this site was not discussed in detail in the work plan since a VCM was planned.

A Phase I surface radiation VCM was completed in March 1995. Limited soil sampling was performed by SNL in September 1995. Phase II surface radiation VCM was completed in the spring and summer 1996. Confirmatory soil sampling was conducted in April 1997. A housekeeping activity to remove excess vermiculite was completed in May 1998. A confirmatory no further action (NFA) proposal was submitted for regulatory approval in September 1998. In December 1999, following review of SNL's response to a Request for Supplemental Information (RSI), NMED indicated that the site was appropriate for NFA approval. This site was approved for removal from SNL's Hazardous and Solid Waste Act (HSWA) permit in July 2000.

## Future Work Planned

No further work is planned.

## Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

Both of the rad VCMs done at this site generated 111 drums of radioactive waste. The confirmatory sampling generated a negligible amount of waste. The vermiculite removal generated approximately 40 cubic yards of non-regulated waste.

**Information for ER Site 10 was last updated Jan 22, 2003.**