ER Site No. 100: Building 6620 HE Sump/Drain (TA-III)

ADS: 1306
Operable Unit: Tech Area III & V

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Site History

SWMU 100 is located in the central portion of TA-III and is 2,168 square feet in size. The site is northwest of Building 6620. The facility was constructed in 1958 for the assembly and disassembly of small high explosive (HE) test units. A small static-free room on the northeast side of the building was reportedly used for handling HE compounds. According to SNL/NM Plant Engineering drawings, a floor drain connected to a 3-inch drain line was installed in the center of this room and drained into a ditch northwest of the building. This same drawing also indicates that although the drain was installed, it was covered with a plate of 22-gauge steel and linoleum. The drain has been covered with an anti-static floor mat since at least 1972, and possibly since 1958 and has been used for temporary storage of equipment.

No documentation exists regarding the amounts of HE handled in the static-free room, but personnel have indicated that only small amounts were used as components of small explosive test units that were routinely assembled and disassembled at this facility. Based on this information, the constituent of concern (COC) list for the drain in the static-free room was limited to HEs.

Constituents of Concern

High explosives (HEs)

Current Hazards

The site has been fully investigated and sampled. There are no current hazards at this site related to contamination of the surface or subsurface soils. There may be structures or stored materials that remain at the site that are a potential hazard.

Current Status of Work

The first exploratory excavation took place in July 1994 outside the fenced area due to security restrictions inside the fenced perimeter of Building 6620. The exploratory trenching did not locate the drain line, any evidence of the ditch or any soil staining. A no further action recommendation for this site was presented in the TA-III&V RFI report. This report was submitted to the EPA and NMED in July 1996.

Two Notices of Deficiency (NODs) were received from NMED in August 1997 and April 1998 requesting additional investigation at the site. Several meetings were held to discuss the issues of the additional investigation, and in June 1999, a reconnaissance survey of the building located a thick seamless rubber mat in the static-free room. Under the mat, a grate was found with a metal plate welded over it. Since the room still held HE components, safety restrictions prohibited the removal of the plate.

In July 1999, an exploratory excavation was conducted within the fenced perimeter of the building in the location of where the drainline was shown to be from the engineering drawing. A 3-inch ceramic pipe with a tar-paper lining was found approximately 3 feet below ground surface. There was no end cap, gravel drain pit, or evidence of a drainage trench or pit at the end of the pipe.

Four subsurface soil samples and 1 duplicate were taken at the end of the pipe and at the outfall of the pipe. The samples were analyzed for HE compounds and nitrate (as nitrogen) as an indicator of explosive material. No detectable amount of HEs were found in the samples. Nitrate (as nitrogen) results ranged from 0.17 to 3.38 mg/kg.

A supplemental NOD response report documenting the 1999 investigation and its results were submitted to NMED in December 2000. A proposal for no further action was also included in the report.

In March 2001, NMED issued a letter stating that SWMU 100 is appropriate for no further action. The NFA was approved by NMED on November 19, 2001, after completing the public review and permit modification process.

Future Work Planned

This SWMU has been approved for no further action thus no additional work is planned.

Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

No waste was generated.

Information for ER Site 100 was last updated Jan 13, 2003.