

# Environmental Restoration Project



## ER Site No. 115: Firing Site (Bldg 9930)

ADS: 1335

Operable Unit: Southwest Test Area

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### Site History

ER Site 115 is located on Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) to the east of SNL/NM Technical Area III. The site is located approximately 4,500 feet west of Lovelace Road. The area of the firing activities within ER Site 115 is approximately 0.5 ac of land. The nearest well to ER Site 115 is the Large Melt Facility monitoring well (LMF-1), approximately 1/2 mile to the east. Depth to groundwater at LMF-1 was measured at 347 feet below ground surface in November 1995

ER Site 115 was identified during investigations conducted under the Comprehensive Environmental Assessment and Response Program (CEARP) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Assessment (RFA). The CEARP noted that, according to interviews conducted with two individuals in 1984, mercury was used for one explosive test and was widely dispersed in the area. However, when one of the individuals was re-interviewed in 1995 he had no recollection of any tests involving mercury. The other interviewee could not be located for a follow-up interview.

ER Site 115, Firing Site (Building 9930) is an explosive test facility where detonators, timers, and other weapon components are tested. It was built in 1961 to test explosive components. It was used from 1965 to 1968 to test small (less than a cubic foot) components such as detonators and timers. From an unspecified period after the early explosive testing until 1978 the facility was used for the storage of hydraulic equipment. From 1977 to 1978 it was used to store small arms ammunition. The hydraulic equipment was removed in 1978, when the facility was converted back into an explosive test site.

ER Site 115 is comprised of firing sites located on the west side, north side, and roof of Building 9930. The sites are active and access is controlled. ER Site 115 is located on a relatively flat area of approximately 400-ft by 400-ft (160,000 sq ft).

One test location is an open explosive test chamber or boom box. Approximately 500 shots per year were fired at this location in past years; currently only 100-200 shots per year are being fired. The high explosives (HE) charge in most shots is in the milligram quantity range; however, the charge can contain up to a maximum of 10 pounds of HE. Dispersion of the debris is limited by an earthen berm that surrounds this test location, and debris is not usually collected. Soil contaminants resulting from dispersed metal fragments and explosives would be limited to the area within the berm.

The other two locations are no longer used. At one of these, a total of 5 to 6 shots were conducted with a maximum of 50 pounds of HE per shot. The other contains a test device simulating only the firing chamber portion of a Davis gun. Less than 10 tests were conducted. A maximum of 30 pounds of single-based or double-based gun propellant and approximately 10 pounds of HE were used for each shot. The gun propellant contains nitrocellulose and may contain nitroglycerin.

## **Constituents of Concern**

Depleted uranium (DU)

HE

Beryllium

Lead

Mercury

## **Current Hazards**

There are no current hazards at this site related to contamination of the surface or subsurface soils.

## **Current Status of Work**

Site characterization sampling is complete. A confirmatory sampling no further action NFA proposal was submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in December 1996. In December 1999, following review of SNLs response to a Request for Supplemental Information (RSI), NMED indicated that the site was acceptable for NFA. The NFA was approved by NMED in October 2000 after completing the public review and permit modification process.

## **Future Work Planned**

No Further work is planned.

## **Waste Volume Estimated/Generated**

No waste was generated.

**Information for ER Site 115 was last updated Jan 22, 2003.**