

# Environmental Restoration Project



## ER Site No. 140: Bldg 9965 Septic System (Thunder Range)

ADS: 1295

Operable Unit: Septic Tanks and Drainfields

Site History .....	1
Constituents of Concern.....	1
Current Hazards .....	2
Current Status of Work .....	2
Future Work Planned .....	2
Waste Volume Estimated/Generated .....	2

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### Site History

ER Site 140 includes a septic system and two drywells serving Bldg. 9965. Bldg. 9965 is located in the Thunder Range of the Coyote Test Field, approximately 300 m (1,000 ft) northeast of Bldg. 9964. It was constructed in 1965 and used as a control building for the Shock Facility. The building also was used as a darkroom for photographic processing of black and white film.

The Bldg. 9965 has one restroom, two hand sinks, and two floor drains. One hand sink was used for disposal of photographic processing wastewater. The second sink is located in the main equipment area and was used principally for hand washing. One septic tank, one seepage pit, and two drywells served Bldg. 9965. The 2,850 L (750 gal) septic tank and 1.8 m (6 ft) diameter by 2 m (6.5 ft) deep seepage pit are located southwest of the building and on the opposite side of the fence. The septic tank was pumped once in the past. Two drywells, each 1.2 by 1.2 by 1.2 m (4 by 4 by 4 ft) and filled with 2 cm (0.75 in) aggregate, are located near the north end of the building. One drywell was determined from the September 1993 site walkover to be located northeast of Bldg. 9965. It was installed in July 1972 to replace another drywell in the same vicinity. Both drywells received wastewater from two floor drains located inside Bldg. 9965. Estimated effluent discharge rates range between 38 and 1,900 L/day (10 and 500 gal/day).

The site is approximately 111 meters (364 feet) above the regional water table.

### Constituents of Concern

The constituents of concern are photoprocessing wastes (silver, cyanide, hexavalent chromium, and cadmium), which could have been discharged to the septic system and both drywells. Hazardous materials that may have entered the septic system through hand washing activities, include elemental carbon, aluminum oxide, and possibly nitric acid. Aqueous samples obtained

from the septic tank in 1991 contained trichlorethylene (TCE), barium, chromium, cadmium, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, total phenolic compounds, and nitrate/nitrites.

## **Current Hazards**

No known surface or subsurface hazards have been identified, based on environmental soil and soil-gas sampling that has been conducted at the site.

## **Current Status of Work**

The septic tank was sampled for waste characterization in the spring of 1994.

A passive soil gas survey in the summer of 1994 did not detect any significant volatile organic compound or semi-volatile organic compound anomalies.

Soil sampling around the seepage pit, septic tank, and dry well was completed in 1994 and early 1995

Waste was removed from the septic tank, and the empty tank was inspected by New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in late 1995. The tank was decontaminated, and concrete samples were collected to verify that no COCs remain. The tank was then backfilled with clean soil.

A confirmatory sampling No Further Action (NFA) proposal was submitted to the NMED/HRMB in January 1997. NMED issued a Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) in June 1999, and SNL/NM responded to the RSI in September 1999.

## **Future Work Planned**

Additional work may be completed at this site pursuant to the Small Septic Systems sampling and analysis plan (SAP).

## **Waste Volume Estimated/Generated**

Around 26 drums of mixed waste were generated at this site.

**Information for ER Site 140 was last updated Dec 12, 2001.**