

Environmental Restoration Project



ER Site No. 141: Bldg 9967 Septic System (Thunder Range)

ADS: 1295

Operable Unit: Septic Tanks and Drainfields

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Site History

ER Site 141 includes a seepage pit and a small French drain serving Bldg. 9967. Bldg. 9967 is located in the Thunder Range of the Coyote Test Field approximately 335 m (1,100 ft) northeast of Bldg. 9965. It was constructed in 1968 and was used for assembling high explosives (HE) for explosive testing.

The building has one hand sink and a floor trough. The hand sink is located in the northwest corner of the explosive assembly room and discharged to a drywell on the west side of the building. The floor trough discharged through a concrete channel with a steel cover, which exits at the south end of the building and turns west to a catch box lined with a polyethylene filter bag. Heavy particles of waste HE were then collected in the catch box lined with the polyethylene filter bag, and the liquid overflow discharged into the seepage pit. The filter bags were periodically replaced and disposed of by the U.S. Air Force explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). Currently the floors are swept and wet-mopped rather than washed down into the floor trough.

Overflow from the catch box entered a 1.0 m (3 ft) diameter by 4.8 m (15.7 ft) deep seepage pit. Estimated effluent discharge rates from the floor trough range between 76 and 760 L/day (20 and 200 gal/day). There are no estimates of releases from the hand sink. During past operations, the floor in the explosive assembly area was washed down with water into the floor trough. The system is no longer in use.

The site is approximately 58 meters (190 feet) above the regional water table.

Constituents of Concern

The constituents of concern is primarily HE residues.

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

A passive soil gas survey performed in the summer of 1994 did not detect any volatile organic compound (VOC) anomalies.

Soil samples were collected around the seepage pit in the fall of 1994 and beneath the drywell in early 1995.

A confirmatory sampling No Further Action (NFA) proposal for this site was submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department/Hazardous Radioactive Materials Bureau (NMED/HRMB) in July 1996.

In response to requests by and negotiations with NMED/HRMB and DOE OB, re-sampling of soil from directly the seepage pit at this site was completed in January 1998. Soil samples had been previously collected from a pair of borings located on either side of the seepage pit, but this method was considered inadequate by NMED. Analytical results for soil samples collected from directly beneath the seepage pit were not significantly different from the analytical results for soil samples collected on either side of the seepage pit. NMED regulators agreed with this conclusion, and determined that additional soil sampling beneath the seepage pit would not be required.

NMED issued a Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) in June 1998, and SNL/NM responded to the RSI in November 1998. NMED issued a second RSI in June 2000, and indicated that this site was acceptable for NFA. The NFA was approved by NMED on November 19, 2001, after completing the public review and permit modification process.

Future Work Planned

No future work is planned.

Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

No waste was generated at this site.

Information for ER Site 141 was last updated Mar 12, 2002.