

Environmental Restoration Project



ER Site No. 143: Bldg 9972 Septic System

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

Primary Contact: [Dick Fate](#)

Office Phone: 284-2568

Site History

ER Site 143 is the septic system serving Building 9972. Building 9972 is located west of Lovelace Road, approximately 1.0 mi east of the Solar Power Tower. It was constructed in 1987 and used for radar development. According to the building occupants, waste chemicals or contaminants were never discharged into the septic system.

A septic system that received discharge from a restroom in the building is located southeast of the building. It includes one 1250-gal. septic tank and a leachfield consisting of six 50-ft drain lines. The septic system is no longer in use and effluent from the restroom is now directed to an extension of the sanitary sewer system.

A 3-ft by 3-ft drywell filled with 0.75 in. of aggregate is buried 2 ft below grade on the southwest side of the building. According to interviews with building operators during the September 1993 site visit, no floor drains exist in the northwest part of the building, as postulated in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) work plan. The drywell, which remains active, serves as a drain for the condensate from an air conditioning unit. The area where the drywell is located is covered with asphalt paving and no soil sampling was performed or is anticipated around the area.

The site is approximately 30 meters (99 feet) above the regional water table.

Constituents of Concern

There are no known releases of constituents of concern at this site. Aqueous samples obtained from the septic tank in 1991 detected phenols and total phenolic compounds.

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 conducted around the septic tank and in the drainfield in the summer of 1994 potentially identified PCE, BTEX, and aliphatic compounds in soil gas at a number of locations. However, analytical results of soil samples collected from around the septic tank and in the drainfield in the fall of 1994 did not identify hazardous or radioactive constituents above action levels or background.

The septic tank was sampled in 1994 for waste characterization purposes.

Waste was removed from the septic tank, and the empty tank inspected by New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in late 1995. The tank was decontaminated, and concrete samples were collected from the tank to verify that no COCs remain. The tank was then backfilled with clean soil. The abandoned drainfields drainlines are still present at the site, and are buried at an average depth of 7.5 feet below the surface.

An NFA proposal for ER Site 143 was submitted to the NMED/HRMB in September 1995, and NFA comments were received from NMED/HRMB in April 1997. SNL replied to the NMED comments in June 1997. NMED issued a second Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) in February 2000, and SNL/NM responded to this second RSI in April 2000. On April 18, 2000, NMED found Site 143 to be acceptable for NFA petition. The NFA was officially approved by NMED in October 2000 after completing the public review and permit modification process.

Future Work Planned

No future work is planned.

Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

Fourteen drums of mixed waste were generated at this site.

Information for ER Site 143 was last updated Aug 15, 2001.