



## ER Site No. 17: Scrap Yards/Open Dump (Thunder Range)

ADS: 1335

Operable Unit: Southwest Test Area

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### Site History

Eight scrap yard areas have been identified in ADS 1335 in South Thunder Range. Very little information is available on the history of the scrap yards; most of the scrap was removed from the sites prior to April 1994 when a site visit was conducted.

Thunder Range access is controlled (general public not admitted) but access to individual sites is uncontrolled to workers. Historic activities at the scrapyards involved handling and storage of various materials used in the various tests at South Thunder Range. Storage occurred primarily at the surface. However, based on photographs and visual site inspection, some inadvertent, shallow burial apparently occurred. Over a period of time a variety of materials may have been stored at the scrap yards, representing a wide range of potential contaminant sources.

The terrain is flat with some vegetation (primarily sage and tumble weeds). The shallow subsurface geology is comprised of alluvial sediments. Depth to ground water is unknown, but estimated to be approximately 500 feet below ground surface.

The eight scrap yards have been designated as described below:

17A - This subsite is located directly north of the Large Shock Tube ([Site 89](#)) and is approximately 0.9 acres in extent. Potential Constituents of Concern (COCs) are unknown.

17B - This subsite is located to the west of the General Purpose Heat Source Area ([Site 194](#)) , and to the south of the Lead Firing Site ([Site 91](#)). This site is 2.08 acres in area and two Radioactive Material Management Areas (RMMAs) have been defined within the site from the Rust-Geotech surface radiation survey conducted on January 12, 1994. Other than depleted uranium (DU), other potential COCs are unknown.

17C - This subsite covers 7.7 acres and is located east of building 9965. Potential COCs are unknown.

17D - This subsite is east of [Site 90](#), the Beryllium Firing Site and is about 0.25 acres in area. This scrap yard is inactive and surface debris has been cleaned up. Old photos indicate that scrap metal, air ducts, a crushed car body, a barrel, and wooden pallets were present. Potential COCs are unknown.

17E, 17F - These subsites comprise .01 and .005 acres respectively. Based on site history and interviews of the former Range Manager, the suspected COCs at 17E and 17F include lead beryllium, DU, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), petroleum hydrocarbons, asbestos (tank insulation), and mercury from fluorescent light bulbs.

17G - This scrap yard which is north of the Sabotage test area ([Site 193](#)) is 0.21 acres in area. This scrap yard has a long elevated, rail-like structure, and sections of a two-foot diameter shock tube. Some old storage tanks have been removed. Based on site history and interviews with the former Range Manager, the potential COCs are lead, beryllium, DU, petroleum hydrocarbons, and asbestos (tank insulation).

17H - This subsite is a 2.07 acre area located north of the Large Shock Tube ([Site 89](#)). The area is bounded on the south by an arroyo and on the east by a north-south oriented road. The scrap has been removed from the area. According to individuals familiar with the site, the scrap yard was comprised of debris from the tests performed at South Thunder Range. Most of the scrap was removed but some residual debris remains. Potential COCs are unknown.

## Constituents of Concern

See description under individual subsites.

## Current Hazards

There are no current hazards at this site related to contamination of the surface or subsurface soils. There are stored scrap materials that remain at the site that could pose a potential hazard.

## Current Status of Work

Site characterization sampling is complete. Trash removal is complete at Subsites 17B and 17E. A proposal for a risk-based confirmatory sampling no further action (NFA) was submitted to New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in June 1998. In December 1999, following review of SNLs response to a Request for Supplemental Information (RSI), NMED indicated that the site was appropriate for NFA petition. The NFA was approved by NMED in July 2000 after completing the public review and permit modification process.

## **Future Work Planned**

No future work is planned.

## **Waste Volume Estimated/Generated**

Twenty-three drums of radioactive waste have been generated at Site 17.

**Information for ER Site 17 was last updated Jan 22, 2003.**