

# Environmental Restoration Project



## ER Site No. 18: Concrete Pad

ADS: 1306

Operable Unit: Tech Area III & V

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Primary Contact: [Dick Fate](#)

Office Phone: 284-2568

### Site History

Site 18 includes a 400-ft by 125-ft 8-in thick concrete surface and a five foot strip of soil surrounding the concrete pad. It is located south of the Short Sled Track. The concrete pad is used to store scrap material and equipment from Technical Area III (TA-III) sled track and other testing operations. The site is still in use.

Oil staining was observed on the pad in two areas. Several light stains, less than a foot (<0.3 m) in diameter, were observed in the northwest quarter of the pad. A transformer was reportedly stored at this location. An oil stain was also observed in the northeast corner of the pad where reportedly a locomotive used at the sled track was dismantled. No evidence was found to indicate any significant spills on or off the concrete pad; however, the probable transformer and locomotive dismantling locations were identified as Areas of Concern for further investigation.

### Constituents of Concern

Petroleum hydrocarbons (hydraulic fluid)

High Explosives (HEs)

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Metals: Cd, Cr, Zn

Radioactive materials: Co-60 and Depleted Uranium (DU)

### Current Hazards

The site has been fully investigated and sampled. There are no current hazards at this site related to contamination of the surface or subsurface soils. There may be structures or stored materials that remain at the site that are a potential hazard.

## Current Status of Work

The site was surveyed for surface radioactive contamination in 1994. The radioactive soil anomalies around the pad were removed during the ER Project-Wide Surface Radiation Voluntary Corrective Measure (VCM) activities in 1996.

In April 1994, surface soil samples were collected for analysis of the following constituents: total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), PCBs, HEs, total metals, radionuclides via gamma spectroscopy, and isotopic uranium. The majority of the samples showed no levels above background. Some samples, however, did indicate small localized areas of metals, PCBs, and TPH around the northern corners, and east and west sides of the pad.

In January 1995, subsurface samples were collected in these areas at 2-ft intervals to a depth of 6 ft using a power auger; no contamination was detected below 3 feet. The Technical Areas III and V Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation report contains the data analysis, interpretation, and recommendations for action on ER Site 18. The report was submitted to the NMED in June 1996. The RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) report identified one contaminant of concern, PCBs, as requiring corrective action.

A voluntary corrective measure (VCM) was conducted in October 1996 to remove the PCB-contaminated soil. Thirteen cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soil were excavated from the site. Confirmatory sampling showed the remediation was successful in cleaning the site to below 10 ppm PCBs. The cleanup and sampling were documented in the [Site 18 VCM Report](#) and NFA proposal, submitted to NMED in September 1997.

New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) Notice of Deficiency (NOD) comments were received on the TA-III/V RFI Report in August 1997. Additional comments on the site were received in a second NOD in April 1998. In the second NOD, NMED required additional sampling to confirm that the extent of contamination had been adequately defined. In March 2001, additional samples were collected as agreed to with NMED and analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs, PCBs, metals and radionuclides. Also, radioactive anomalies on the concrete pad were removed.

Most of the remaining contamination at the site can be related to locomotive dismantling work conducted at the northeast end of the site and transformers that were stored along the northwest edge of the pad. Cadmium concentrations exceeding background remain within 5 feet of the edge of the pad at several locations. All but one PCB concentration are below the current regulatory limit of 1 mg/kg. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed the PCB concentrations that remained at the conclusion of the 1996 PCB VCM, including one location with a concentration of 2.1 mg/kg. They determined that, based upon the agreements at the time, the PCB cleanup that was done is appropriate and no further actions are necessary to address PCB contamination at SWMU 18.

A supplemental response to the 2nd NOD that documented the 2001 sampling and briefly summarized all sampling was submitted to the NMED in June 2002. The human health and ecological risk assessment indicated that this site is appropriate for industrial use.

On March 12, 2003, the NMED accepted this site for NFA status under an industrial land-use scenario.

## **Future Work Planned**

No further work is planned.

## **Waste Volume Estimated/Generated**

Thirteen cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soil were generated as a result of the 1996 PCB VCM and two drums of radioactive waste were generated when radioactive anomalies on the concrete were removed in March 2001.

**Information for ER Site 18 was last updated Mar 14, 2003.**