

Environmental Restoration Project



ER Site No. 51: Building 6924 Pad, Tank, and Pit

ADS: 1306

Operable Unit: Tech Area III & V

Site History	1
Constituents of Concern.....	1
Current Hazards	1
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 51 is located near [ER Site 241](#) storage yard. Building 6924 was used for high explosives (HE) synthesis and possibly rocket propellant research. An associated disposal system consisting of a drainage ditch and a holding tank behind the building was used to burn organic compounds contaminated with HE from approximately 1969 to 1971. The disposal system consisted of a cement-lined drainage ditch leading from the building to an open-top, metal tank. A drain pipe connected the metal tank and an unlined overflow pit. Organic compounds contaminated with HE were discharged through the ditch to the metal tank and ignited. No records exist of the overflow pit actually receiving material.

According to 1990 interviews with SNL personnel, the site was used only for equipment storage.

The building and disposal system was later removed.

Constituents of Concern

Metals.

High explosives (HEs).

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Semi-volatile organic compounds. (SVOCs).

Current Hazards

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

In 1994, the SNL/NM ER Project inspected and removed the holding tank and collected soil samples from beneath the tank, from the overflow pit, and adjacent to the ditch. Four soil samples and one duplicate were field-screened for HEs and VOCs. Samples were non-detect for both HEs and VOCs.

The soil samples also were analyzed at an off-site laboratory for VOCs, SVOCs, HEs, and metals. Arsenic and selenium were detected at levels just above background values, and cadmium and silver had method detection limits (MDLs) slightly above the background screening levels. Lead was detected above the MDL, but the maximum level (23 mg/kg) is well below the NMED action levels for both residential and industrial land use. Low levels of two VOCs were found; bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate was detected at a maximum concentration of 1.4 mg/kg, and methylene chloride was detected at an estimated value of 0.0024 mg/kg.

All available data indicate that there is minimal risk to the environment or to potential receptors from the possible contamination at this site. Data analysis, its interpretation, and a no further action recommendation for this site were presented in the TA-III/V RFI report. This report was submitted to the EPA and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in June 1996. No comments were received on Site 51 in either of two TA-III/V RFI Notice of Deficiencies from NMED. NMED found Site 51 acceptable for NFA petition on May 5, 2000. 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.

Information for ER Site 51 was last updated Jan 23, 2003.