

Environmental Restoration Project



ER Site No. 52: LWDS Holding Tanks

ADS: 1307

Operable Unit: Liquid Waste Disposal System

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Site History

[The three Liquid Waste Disposal System \(LWDS\) holding tanks](#) were designed to receive liquid wastes from the Sandia Engineering Reactor Facility main reactor, experimental facilities, and support facilities in Technical Area V (TA-V). The reactor operated from 1962 to 1971 and the tanks received liquid wastes from the facility during this entire period. The tanks served as holding tanks to allow short-lived radionuclides to decay before discharging to the LWDS drainfield ([Site 5](#)) until the drainfield collapsed in 1967. The discharge was later diverted to the LWDS surface impoundments ([Site 4](#)) from 1967 to 1992.

Constituents of Concern

Radionuclides from the discharge of reactor cooling water.

Organic Compounds/Heavy Metals from various industrial process in TA-V.

Current Hazards

Slightly elevated detections of chromium, beryllium, cadmium, barium, and arsenic were found when sampling the holding tanks. These metals are limited to the inside of the tanks.

Current Status of Work

The investigation of the LWDS Environmental Restoration (ER) sites proceeded "at risk", before U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) Workplan. The investigation, as originally scoped, was completed in March 1994. Contamination was detected at all three LWDS sites.

The EPA approved the RFI Workplan in June 1994. The tanks were disconnected from the original piping and connected to the new Liquid Effluent Control System (LECS), which was constructed in 1994 to allow wastewater to be held and sampled before discharging to the City of Albuquerque publicly-owned treatment works.

Although trichloroethene has been detected in the LWDS Drainfield ground-water monitoring well (LWDS-MW1), it was not detected in the soil associated with any of the LWDS ER sites. Investigation of the TA V groundwater is continuing.

The RFI Report was completed and submitted to the EPA in September 1995. No Further Action (NFA) was recommended for all three sites of the LWDS.

A Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) was received from New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in October 1997, and a response was submitted to NMED in January 1998. Tables that summarized analytical results were included with this response.

A 2nd RSI was received from the NMED in March 2001. A response was returned to NMED in May 2001. This response included tables of analytical data and information regarding the boreholes from which the soil samples were collected.

Future Work Planned

No further work is planned.

Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

No waste has been generated at this site.

Information for ER Site 52 was last updated Jan 27, 2003.