



ER Site No. 67: Frustration Site

ADS: 1332

Operable Unit: Foothills Test Area

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Primary Contact: [Dick Fate](#)

Office Phone: 284-2568

Site History

ER Site 67 is an old mine adit which was used to house an experimental seismic station during the 1960s and 1970s. The abandoned Frustration Seismic Station is located in the Frustration Mine, a horizontal adit approximately 50-ft deep. A sturdy metal door seals the entrance; the remains of the seismic instrumentation are attached to the rock walls inside. Interviews with SNL/NM personnel who worked at the seismic station indicate that the unit was used for monitoring seismic events and the work did not generate any hazardous wastes. Explosive or other destructive testing would not have been conducted in the vicinity because it would have damaged the sensitive seismic instrumentation.

The Frustration Site is located in the southeastern part of the Coyote Test Field. A dirt road leads directly to the door of the Frustration Seismic Station. The total area is approximately 6 acres. The other mine shafts in the area of Site 67 are being incorporated with [ER Site 28](#) (Mine Shafts), which was proposed for No Further Action (NFA).

The military formerly conducted maneuvers in the vicinity, as evidenced by the presence of ordnance debris. The SNL/NM ER Project does not consider the ordnance debris to be its responsibility. Environmental restoration activities have included a unexploded ordnance (UXO) survey conducted in February 1994. The surrounding area was used by the military during WWII for ordnance testing. Numerous shells, some of which may still be live, and pieces of shrapnel are scattered over much of the area. Personnel at KAFB determined that removal and/or disposal of the shells would be too costly. The shells are considered a USAF responsibility.

Information contained in the Comprehensive Environmental Assessment and Response Program (CEARP) Phase 1: Installation Assessment states that near the Frustration Site there is another horizontal mine shaft that SNL/NM reportedly used to burn old aluminum-cased rocket motors. The mine shaft where burning took place has been identified as [ER Site 28-2](#) and will be investigated as a part of [ER Site 28](#).

All interviews of personnel who actually worked at the site indicated that the Frustration Site was only used for experimental seismic work, and that no radioactive or hazardous materials were used.

Since there were rumors of radioactive waste disposal in some of the mine shafts, SNL/NM Safety Engineering staff conducted a radiometric survey of all the mine shafts around 1985. No radiation was detected in the Frustration Site.

An electrical transformer surrounded by a fence (it has since been removed) was located in front of the adit that housed the seismic station. There is no visible evidence of an oil leak onto the ground surface.

Based on information derived from personnel interviews, the corroborative radiation survey of the site, and the recent site reconnaissance, it is unlikely that there is potential at ER Site 67 for a release of hazardous waste (including hazardous constituents) that may pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Constituents of Concern

There are no known contaminants of concern.

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

The site was submitted for NFA in August 1995; comments were received from NMED and responded to by SNL/NM Environmental Restoration. Discussions with NMED personnel defined additional characterization requirements. On October 2000, a housekeeping was conducted inside the mine to remove loose wooden debris (timbers). In addition, a soil sample was collected at the former transformer location near the mine entrance on October 25, 2000, and analyzed for PCBS; no PCBs were detected. A response to NMED's request for Supplemental Information No Further Action Proposal for SWMU 67 was submitted to the NMED in December 2000. On February 6, 2001, the NMED indicated that SWMU 67 is acceptable for NFA. The NFA was approved by NMED on November 19, 2001, after completing the public review and permit modification process.

Future Work Planned

None

Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

Approximately 5 cubic yards of non-hazardous waste (deteriorated mine timbers and electrical wiring and fixtures) was generated during the housekeeping activities conducted in October 2000.

Information for ER Site 67 was last updated Mar 12, 2002.