



**Sandia  
National  
Laboratories**

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**RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT FACILITY  
OPERATING PERMIT  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN**

**SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES, NEW MEXICO**

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**AUGUST 2015**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY**

**United States Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Sandia Field Office**

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Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000. SAND2015-6349 O



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AOC	Area of concern
CRP	Community Relations Plan
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
IR	Information Repository
KAFB	Kirtland Air Force Base
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration
No.	Number
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
Sandia	Sandia Corporation
SNL	Sandia National Laboratories
SNL/NM	Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico
SWMU	Solid waste management unit

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation (Sandia), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). The original mission, to provide engineering design, systems engineering, and integration for the nonnuclear components of the nation's nuclear weapons, continues today. Our unique mission responsibilities create a foundation from which Sandia leverages capabilities to solve complex national security problems. As a multidisciplinary national laboratory and federally funded research and development center, Sandia accomplishes tasks that are integral to the mission and operation of our sponsoring agencies by:

- Anticipating and resolving emerging national security challenges
- Innovating and discovering new technologies to strengthen the nation's technological superiority
- Creating value through products and services that solve important national security challenges
- Informing the national debate where technology policy is critical to preserving security and freedom throughout our world

### 1.1 Background

Sandia generates hazardous and mixed wastes during ongoing operations in support of the objectives listed above; the operations include research and development, testing, production, maintenance, decommissioning, demolition, and waste management.

Hazardous wastes are wastes that are dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment. Management of hazardous wastes is regulated by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) pursuant to New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (Chapter 74, Article 4 of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978) and the implementing regulations in Title 20, Chapter 4, Part 1 of the New Mexico Administrative Code. These regulations incorporate the requirements of the federal regulations found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 260-273.

Mixed wastes are wastes that have both a radioactive and hazardous component. The regulations described above apply to the hazardous aspects of mixed waste, and regulations and policies developed by the DOE under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954 as amended and updated apply to the radioactive component of mixed wastes.

SNL is owned by the DOE NNSA and is operated by Sandia. Hazardous and mixed waste management activities at Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico (SNL/NM) are subject to RCRA Facility Operating Permit Number (No.) NM5890110518 (the Permit), issued to DOE and

Sandia by the NMED. The Permit took effect February 26, 2015 and expires on February 25, 2025. More information can be found at <https://www.env.nm.gov/HWB/snlperm.html> under the heading "SNL Permit and Corrective Action Complete."

## **1.2 Hazardous and Mixed Waste Management at Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico**

Hazardous and mixed wastes are stored and/or treated at nine waste management units at SNL/NM under the Permit, and one additional unit is undergoing post-closure care under the Permit. These ten units and waste management activities are summarized in Table 1. The locations of the ten units are shown in Figure 1.

In addition to the waste management activities listed in Table 1, DOE and Sandia perform corrective action as necessary to protect human health and the environment from releases of hazardous wastes and hazardous constituents from solid waste management units (SWMUs) and areas of concern (AOCs) at SNL/NM. These SWMUs and AOCs have been identified by NMED; they include locations of past testing or waste management activities. Corrective action is conducted under the requirements in the Permit or in the Compliance Order on Consent dated April 29, 2004 between NMED, DOE, and Sandia.

Table 1  
 Hazardous and Mixed Waste Management Activities and Units Subject to the RCRA Facility Operating Permit  
 at Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Hazardous Wastes</b>	<b>Mixed Wastes</b>	<b>Operations</b>
Hazardous Waste Handling Unit	Various	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storage in containers</li> <li>• Repackaging</li> </ul>
Manzano Storage Bunkers (5 units)	Various	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storage in containers</li> </ul>
Radioactive and Mixed Waste Management Unit	Various	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storage in containers</li> <li>• Treatment by various methods</li> <li>• Repackaging</li> </ul>
Auxiliary Hot Cell Unit	Various	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storage in containers</li> <li>• Treatment by various methods</li> <li>• Repackaging</li> </ul>
Thermal Treatment Unit	Specific explosive hazardous waste	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treatment by open burning</li> </ul>
Corrective Action Management Unit	Holds treated soil from the Chemical Waste Landfill	Holds treated soil from the Chemical Waste Landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-closure care</li> </ul>

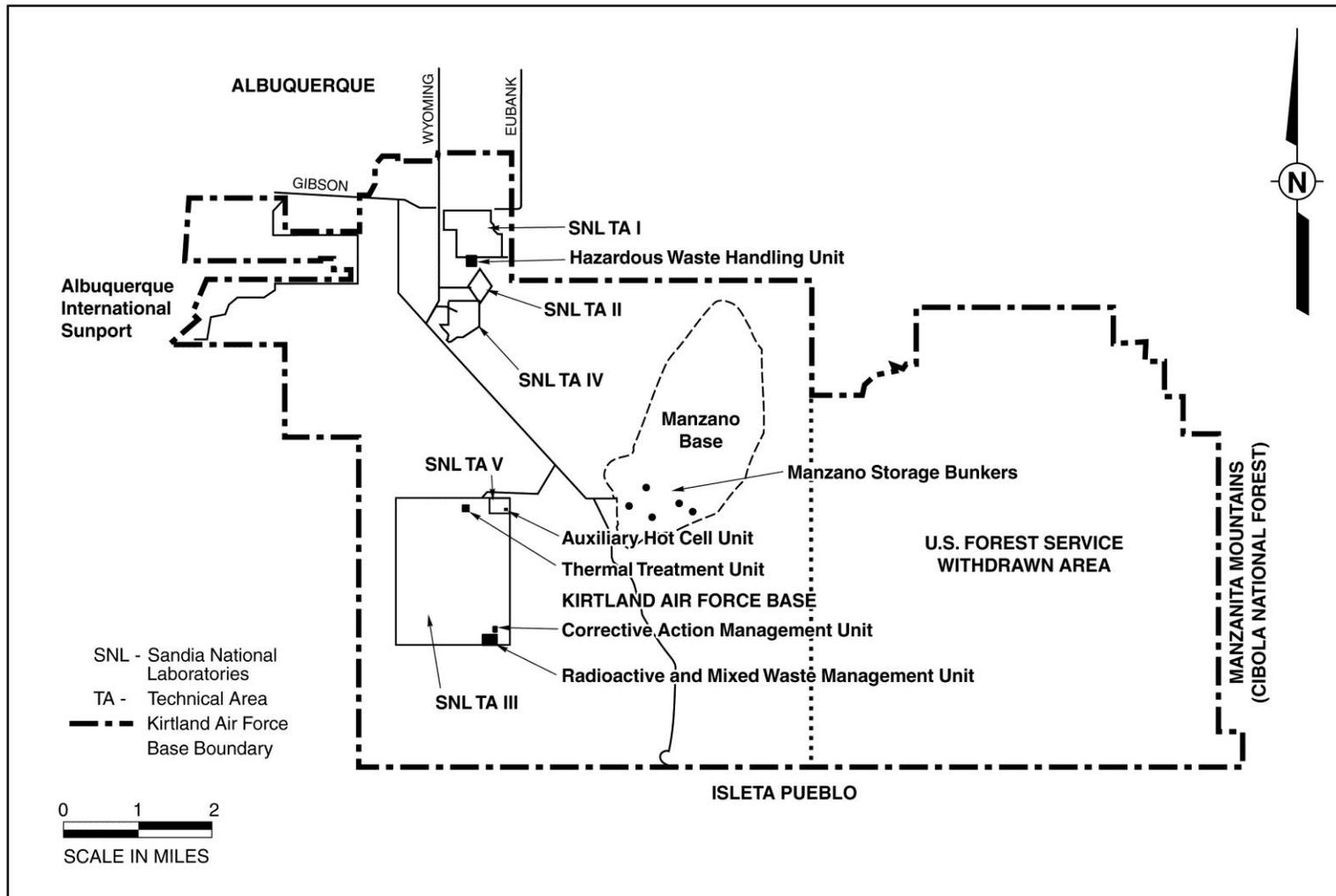


Figure 1  
Location of Permitted Hazardous and Mixed Waste Units at Sandia National Laboratories  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

The SWMUs and AOCs at SNL/NM are listed in Permit Attachment K and shown in Figure 2. Long-term controls at the SWMUs and AOCs that need them are specified in Permit Attachment M.

### **1.3 Document Organization**

This Community Relations Plan (CRP) describes the scope of public involvement in the hazardous and mixed waste management activities of the RCRA Facility Operating Permit (Permit). The CRP is designed to cover only the community relations activities concerning the Permit and coordinates with, but does not include, other SNL/NM programs or environmental activities.

Permit requirements are described in Section 2. Ongoing activities and sources of information regarding hazardous and mixed waste management at SNL/NM are described in Section 3.

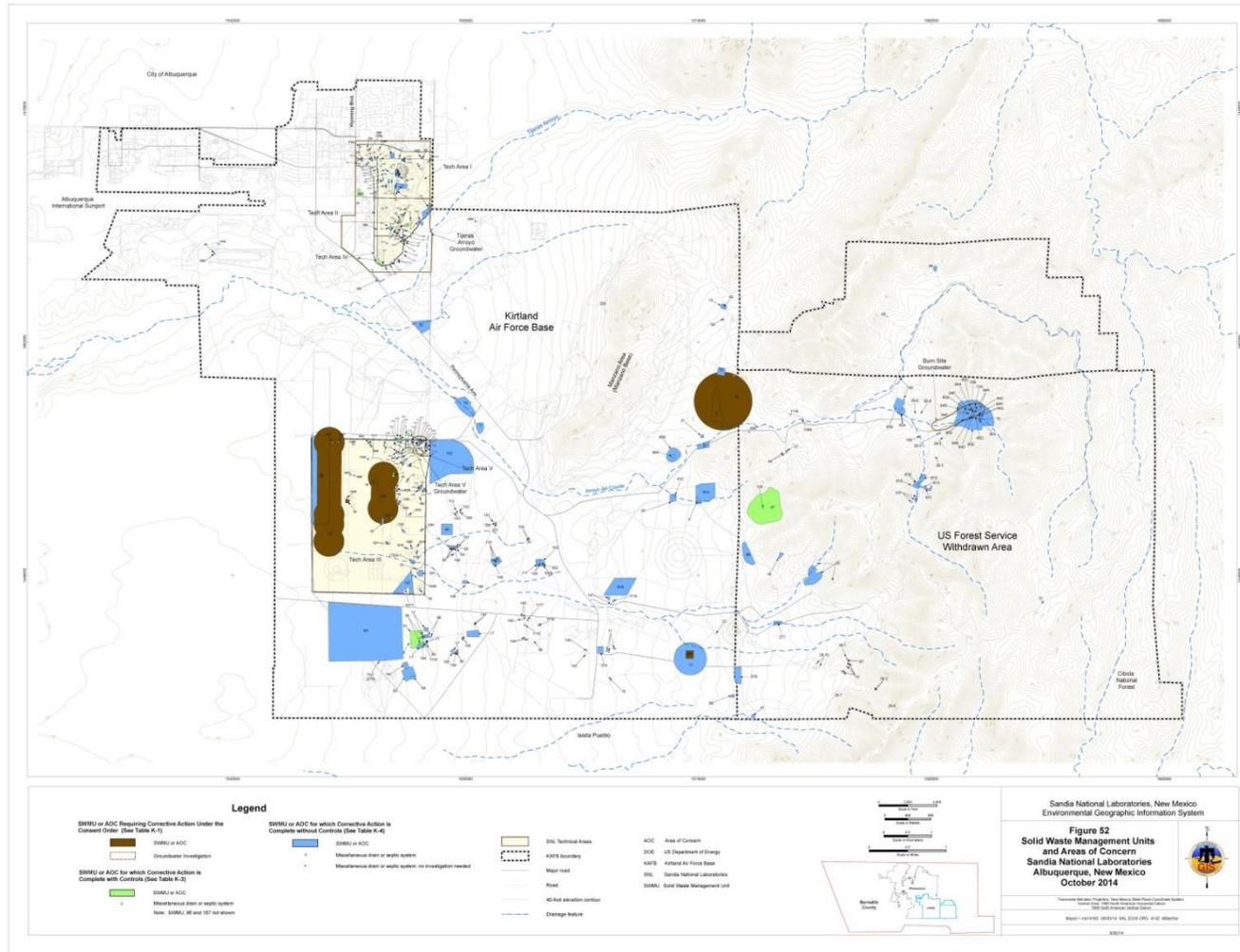


Figure 2  
 Location of Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern at Sandia National Laboratories  
 Albuquerque, New Mexico

## **2.0 RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT FACILITY OPERATING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

DOE and Sandia work to enhance environmental stewardship practices and to inform the public of the status of Permit compliance. In accordance with Section 1.18 of the Permit, DOE and Sandia have developed this CRP to keep the interested members of the public informed about Permit-related activities. The following Permit-related activities are addressed in this CRP:

- Waste management at units listed in Table 1;
- Closure;
- Post-closure; and
- Corrective action.

### **2.1 Topics Addressed in the Community Relations Plan**

The CRP requirements are specified in the Part 1, Section 1.18 of the Permit. The CRP describes how DOE and Sandia "...will keep communities and interested members of the public informed of Permit-related activities, including waste management, closure, post-closure, and corrective action (NMED, January 2015)." The CRP describes how DOE and Sandia will:

- 1. Establish an open working relationship with communities and interested members of the public;*
- 2. Keep communities, the Pueblo of Isleta, and interested members of the public informed of permit actions of interest (e.g., clean-up activities, implementation of the Contingency Plan, Permit modification requests);*
- 3. Attempt to minimize disputes and resolve differences with communities, the Pueblo of Isleta and interested members of the public;*
- 4. Provide a mechanism for the timely dissemination of information in response to individual requests; and*
- 5. Provide a mechanism for communities, the Pueblo of Isleta, and interested members of the public to provide feedback and input to the Permittees semi-annually. (Excerpt from Part 1, Section 1.18 of the Permit)*

## **2.2 Approval of and Revisions to the Community Relations Plan**

The deadline for submittal of the draft CRP to NMED is August 25, 2015; 180 days after the Permit took effect. Following NMED approval of the CRP, DOE and Sandia will implement it and will post it on Sandia's environmental website at <http://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/index.html>. DOE and Sandia will review the CRP annually by June 30 and will update as necessary. The updated CRP will be submitted to NMED by August 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

### **3.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN FOR SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES**

DOE and Sandia are committed to environmental stewardship. Recycling, establishing community environmental partnerships, incorporating sustainable design in new and renovated facilities, and environmental restoration are all integral parts of Sandia's environmental stewardship.

DOE and Sandia provide information about SNL/NM in a variety of ways, and provide numerous opportunities for interested persons to provide input. These are summarized in the seven elements of the CRP that are presented in the following sections. The CRP elements address the five topics that are specified in Section 1.18 the Permit and listed in Section 2.1 of this document. Specifically:

- DOE and Sandia plan to *establish an open working relationship* by implementing the CRP elements (e.g., information availability, meetings and tours, notices and meeting agendas, response to questions, opportunities for providing feedback, and consideration of feedback) discussed in Sections 3.1 through 3.4, 3.6, and 3.7.
- Interested persons can stay informed by using the resources listed in Section 3.5.
- Attempts to minimize disputes are addressed in Section 3.7.
- DOE and Sandia disseminate information in response to questions as discussed in Section 3.4.
- Mechanisms for providing feedback to DOE and Sandia are described in Section 3.6.

#### **3.1 Documents and Information**

Reports, other documents, and correspondence related to the Permit are available for review in the Information Repository (IR) located at Zimmerman Library, located near Roma Avenue and Yale Boulevard on the University of New Mexico main campus in Albuquerque. Information about Zimmerman Library is available at <http://library.unm.edu/about/libraries/zim.php>. Electronic copies are expected to be available at a later date.

An index of the IR is available on Sandia's environmental website at <http://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/index.html>. Interested persons can select documents of interest from the index and obtain instructions for reviewing them at Zimmerman Library.

Selected documents are available online through the University of New Mexico at <http://repository.unm.edu/handle/1928/10963>.

Hazardous waste permits and other documents related to hazardous and mixed waste management at SNL/NM are available on the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/HWB/snlperm.html>.

## **3.2 Meetings and Tours**

DOE and the Department of Defense (DOD) provide information about ongoing environmental activities at semi-annual public meetings. These meetings are typically held in the evenings; one meeting in April, and one in October. The meetings have been held at a community center near KAFB. Future meetings may be held in community centers or other locations. To receive agendas for these meetings, subscribe to the list for semi-annual public meetings described in Section 3.3.2.

New Mexico regulations specify the public notice steps that DOE and Sandia are required to take when requesting a modification to the Permit for SNL/NM. There are three classes of permit modifications (i.e., Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3) and the public notice requirements differ. We hold public meetings to provide information and solicit comments when requesting Class 2 or Class 3 permit modifications. We may hold these permit-related public meetings in conjunction with the DOE/DOD semi-annual meetings, or we may hold separate permit-related public meetings. Meetings for Class 2 and Class 3 permit modifications may include posters or presentations with question-and-answer sessions. Notices for permit-related meetings are published in the *Albuquerque Journal* and sent to people on the NMED facility list described in Section 3.3.

DOE and Sandia may provide tours of selected waste management units, SWMUs, and AOCs. Group size will be limited for each tour, and visitors who attend will need to comply with all requirements for access to SNL/NM and Kirtland Air Force Base. Tour requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis to minimize disruption of ongoing research and development work. Tour requests may be made through email to [envinfo@sandia.gov](mailto:envinfo@sandia.gov). If tours are scheduled that are available to members of the public, information will be included with agendas for semi-annual public meetings

## **3.3 Mailing Lists**

### **3.3.1 List for Information Repository**

DOE and Sandia will update the IR index after submitting documents to NMED or receiving documents from NMED. Interested persons can subscribe to either mailing list described below to be notified by email of updates to the IR and the index after new documents are added to the IRIR.

### 3.3.2 List for Semi-Annual Public Meetings

DOE and Sandia also maintain a mailing list of people and organizations who are interested in attending the semi-annual public meetings hosted by DOE and DOD. Each meeting agenda includes instructions for updating your contact information. To subscribe to the mailing list, people and organizations can do either of the following:

- Select “Public Meeting Agendas” on the subscription menu, or
- Send an email to [envinfo@sandia.gov](mailto:envinfo@sandia.gov).

### 3.3.3 New Mexico Environment Department Facility List

NMED maintains a mailing list of people and organizations who are interested in hazardous and mixed waste permitting activities at SNL/NM. To subscribe to this list, contact

Program Manager, Permits Program  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

DOE and Sandia send notices to people on this list every time we request a modification to the Permit.

## 3.4 Questions and Requests for Information

DOE and Sandia are committed to being responsive to reasonable public requests. Many documents are available in the IR, online through the University of New Mexico at <http://repository.unm.edu/handle/1928/10963>, or online through the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau at <https://www.env.nm.gov/HWB/snlperm.html>. We recommend reviewing these sources first to avoid waiting for a response.

To ask a question about hazardous and mixed waste management, closure, post-closure, corrective action, or other Permit-related activity, send an email to [envinfo@sandia.gov](mailto:envinfo@sandia.gov).

To request other documents, please review the information available at the National Nuclear Security Administration Freedom of Information Act website <http://nnsa.energy.gov/aboutus/ouoperations/generalcounsel/foia>.

## 3.5 Keeping Informed About Permit Actions of Interest

Interested persons may use any of the following to keep informed about hazardous waste permits, hazardous and mixed waste management, and environmental cleanup activities at SNL/NM.

- Follow SNL/NM in the news,
- Visit Sandia’s environmental website at <http://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/index.html>,
- Attend semi-annual public meetings and permit-related public meetings, or
- Subscribe to mailing lists.

### **3.6 Providing Feedback to the Department of Energy and Sandia**

There are several ways for people or organizations to provide feedback.

DOE and Sandia provide opportunities for public involvement at any time via Sandia’s environmental website at <http://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/index.html>, and via e-mail to [envinfo@sandia.gov](mailto:envinfo@sandia.gov).

Interested persons are welcome to provide feedback to DOE and Sandia at meetings and presentations, including

- Semi-annual public meetings in April and October. Comment cards are available at the meetings, and presenters solicit questions when time allows.
- Public meetings for Class 2 and 3 modifications to the Permit. Comments will be solicited and comment submittal instructions will be available at each meeting.

This CRP is reviewed annually by June 30 and updated as necessary. Interested persons are welcome to submit comments throughout the year to [envinfo@sandia.gov](mailto:envinfo@sandia.gov) regarding the CRP. Please include “CRP” in the subject line of the message. DOE and Sandia will also solicit comments during the semi-annual public meeting each April.

If the CRP is updated, it will be submitted to NMED for review by September 15<sup>th</sup>. The updated plan will be posted on the Sandia environmental website at <http://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/index.html> following NMED review and approval.

### **3.7 Minimizing Disputes**

DOE and Sandia give careful consideration to feedback, comments, and suggestions received during semi-annual meetings and other permit-specific public meetings.

DOE and Sandia will address comments that allow for a response and provide the response to the organization or individual with whom it originated. Questions, suggestions, and comments specific to the CRP will be forwarded to NMED annually when the CRP is updated.

## 4.0 REFERENCES

Flynn, R., December 2014. "Final Order, State of New Mexico Before the Secretary of the Environment in the Matter of the Renewal of Hazardous Waste Permit EPA ID Number NM5890110518 and Granting of Corrective Action Complete Status for Certain Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern at Sandia National Laboratories" No. HWB 14-01(P), December 19, 2014.

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), January 2015. "Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Operating Permit, EPA ID No. NM5890110518, to the U.S. Department of Energy/Sandia Corporation, for the Sandia National Laboratories Hazardous and Mixed Waste Treatment and Storage Units and Post-Closure Care of the Corrective Action Management Unit," New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau, Santa Fe, New Mexico, January 26, 2015.

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