Sandia National Laboratories

SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES, NEW MEXICO
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY OPERATING PERMIT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

AUGUST 2026

National Nuclear Security Administration

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-mission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc. for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525. SAND2026-25476 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
NTESS	National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SNL	Sandia National Laboratories
SNL/NM	Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico
SWMU	solid waste management unit
U.S.	United States

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) is a multi-mission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, (NTESS), a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc. for the United States (U.S.) Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). Operating since 1949, SNL's core purpose is to render exceptional service in the national interest. As a Federally Funded Research and Development Center, SNL operates in the public interest with objectivity and independence, free from organizational conflicts of interest, maintaining core competencies in missions of national significance. Our principal mission is to deliver on commitments to nuclear deterrence, nuclear nonproliferation, and critical work for the national security community.

1.1 Background

SNL personnel generate hazardous and mixed wastes during ongoing operations in support of the objectives listed above. Operations at the SNL facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico 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 in New Mexico 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 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 of 1954, as amended and updated, apply to the radioactive component of mixed wastes.

SNL is owned by the DOE/NNSA and is managed and operated by NTESS. Hazardous and mixed waste management activities at Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico (SNL/NM) are subject to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Operating Permit Number (No.) NM5890110518 (the Permit), issued by the NMED. The Permit took effect February 26, 2015 and expired on February 25, 2025. The Permit Renewal Request was submitted to NMED timely on August 30, 2024. SNL continues to operate under the existing RCRA Permit until a new permit is issued by NMED. More information can be found at https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/sandia-national-laboratories/#SNLPermit under the heading "SNL Permit."

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, the DOE/NNSA and NTESS 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 the 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 the NMED, the DOE/NNSA, and the SNL management and operating contractor.

The SWMUs and AOCs at SNL/NM are listed in Permit Attachment K and are shown in Figure 2. Provisions for maintenance of 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 Permit. The CRP only addresses the community relations activities concerning the Permit and coordinates with, but does not include, other SNL/NM programs or environmental activities.

Permit requirements and updates to the CRP 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.

Table 1
Hazardous and Mixed Waste Management Units and Activities Subject to the
RCRA Facility Operating Permit, August 2025
Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico

Unit	Hazardous Wastes	Mixed Wastes	Operations
Hazardous Waste Handling Unit	Various	Various	• Storage in containers • Repackaging
Manzano Storage Bunkers (5 units)	Various	Various	• Storage in containers • Repackaging
Radioactive and Mixed Waste Management Unit	Various	Various	• Storage in containers • Treatment by various methods • Repackaging
Auxiliary Hot Cell Unit	Various	Various	• Storage in containers • Treatment by various methods • Repackaging
Thermal Treatment Unit	Specific explosive hazardous wastes	None	• Treatment by open burning
Corrective Action Management Unit	Holds treated soil from the Chemical Waste Landfill	Holds treated soil from the Chemical Waste Landfill	• Post-closure care

Notes:
RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

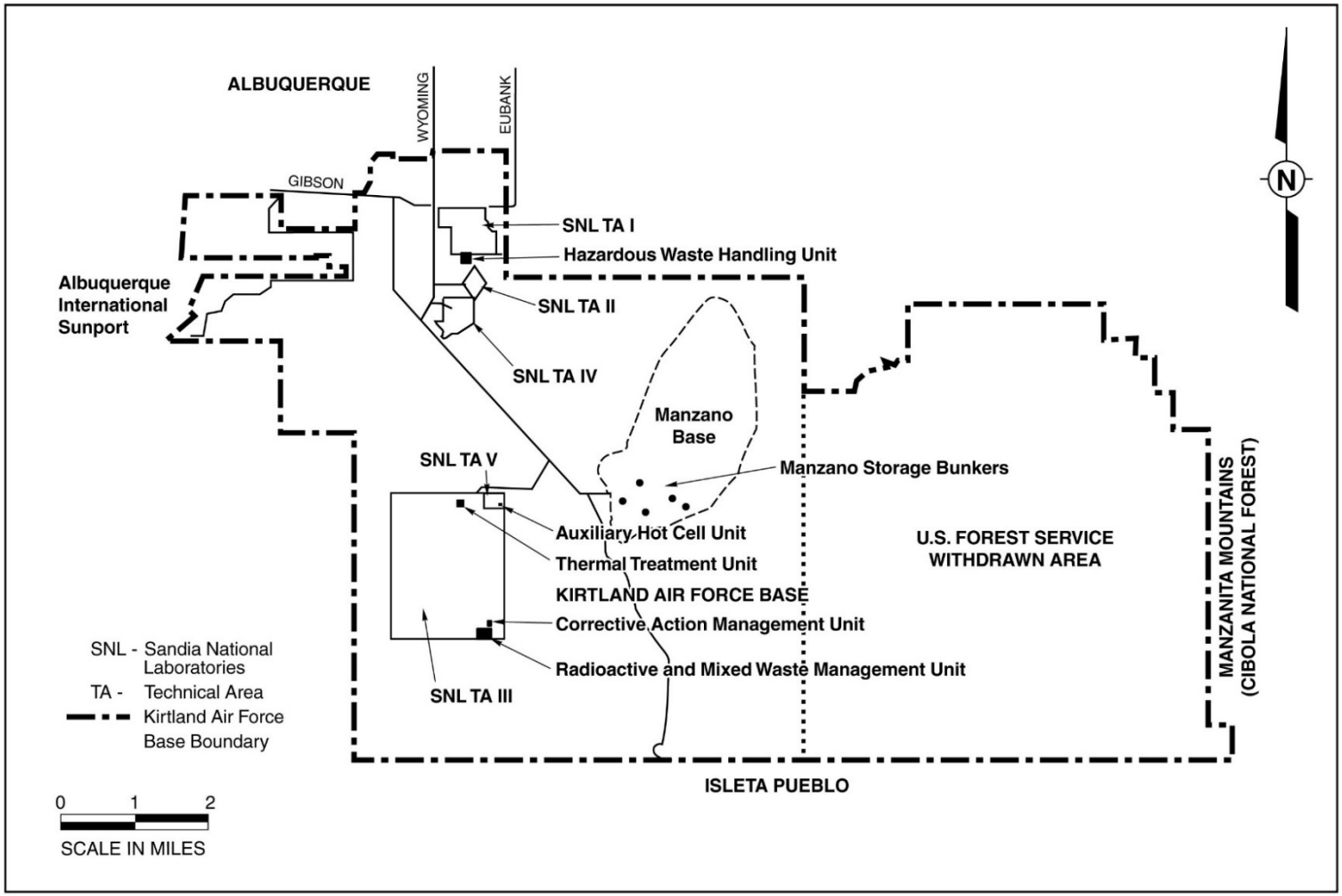


Figure 1
Location of Permitted Hazardous and Mixed Waste Units, August 2026
Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico

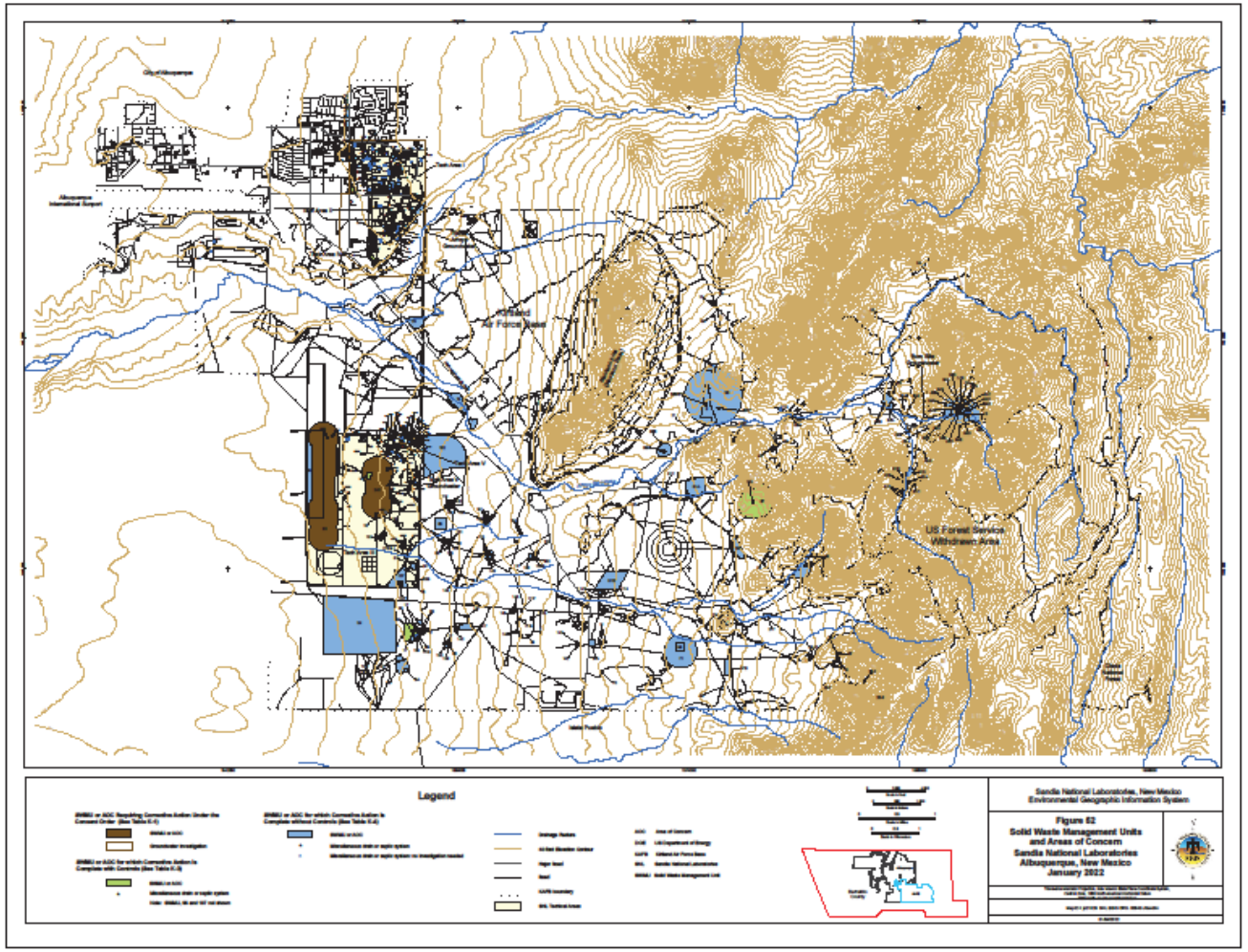


Figure 2
Location of Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern, August 2026
Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico

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2.0 RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT FACILITY OPERATING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The DOE/NNSA and NTESS 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, we 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 Section 3.0:

- Waste management activities at units listed in Table 1,
- Closure,
- Post-closure care,
- Corrective action, and
- Maintenance of long-term controls.

2.1 Topics Addressed in the Community Relations Plan

The CRP requirements are specified in Part 1, Section 1.18 of the Permit. The CRP describes how the DOE/NNSA and NTESS "…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, as revised and updated). Specifically, the CRP describes how we 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 the Community Relations Plan

The draft CRP was submitted to the NMED on August 24, 2015. In December 2015, the NMED made the draft CRP available to the public and received one comment during the 30-day public comment period. The NMED approved the CRP in January 2016 without modification (Kieling January 2016). In March 2016, the approved CRP was posted online. NMED-approved updates have been posted each year. The most recent CRP was posted in November 2025 following NMED approval (Nance November 2025). It is available at https://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/.

2.3 Revisions to the Community Relations Plan

We solicit comments regarding the CRP during a public meeting or poster session in April when such sessions are held in person. Annually, during the month of June, we review the CRP; we update it as necessary during August. When the CRP is updated, it is submitted to NMED by September 15.

A public meeting was scheduled for October 2025 but cancelled due to the government shutdown which continued through November 2025.

Comments and feedback on the CRP were solicited during the April 2026 in-person poster session. No comments have been received at envinfo@sandia.gov as of August 1, 2026. This CRP includes minor revisions to correct errors and reflect administrative updates.

In the future, review of the CRP will continue on an annual basis by June 30 and the CRP will be updated, as necessary. When the CRP is updated, it will be submitted to NMED by September 15.

3.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN FOR SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES

The DOE/NNSA and NTESS are committed to environmental stewardship. Minimizing waste, recycling, establishing community environmental partnerships, incorporating sustainable design into new and renovated facilities, and environmental restoration are all integral parts of our environmental stewardship.

We 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:

- We have an open working relationship through implementing the CRP elements (e.g., information availability, meetings, 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.
- We disseminate information in response to questions as discussed in Section 3.4.
- Interested persons can stay informed by using the resources listed in Section 3.5.
- Mechanisms for providing feedback to us are described in Section 3.6.
- Attempts to minimize disputes are addressed in Section 3.7.

3.1 Documents and Information

SNL placed Permit-related reports, other documents, and correspondence at the following for public review:

- Physical copies are available at the Information Repository (IR) located at Zimmerman Library, on the north side of Smith Plaza near Roma Avenue and Yale Boulevard on the University of New Mexico main campus in Albuquerque. Electronic copies are expected to be available at a later date. Interested persons can select documents of interest from the index and obtain instructions for reviewing them at Zimmerman Library.
    - Information about Zimmerman Library is available at http://library.unm.edu/about/libraries/zim.php.
    - An index of the IR is available on the SNL environmental website at https://www.sandia.gov/rcra/. A link to the index is also available at https://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/.
- Selected documents are available online through the University of New Mexico at http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/snl/.

Access to University of New Mexico libraries, including Zimmerman Library, may be temporarily restricted due to University operational changes designed to protect students, faculty, staff, and the public from COVID-19 or other diseases. During periods when access to physical copies is not available, due to Zimmerman Library closures, check the online sources listed above. If you are unable to find an online copy of a document that is listed in the index, request an electronic copy by sending an email request with the document title and IR index number to envinfo@sandia.gov. If you require access to a physical copy, specify that in the email request and provide your contact information so we can contact you to make arrangements for access.

The NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau established an online location for the public to access hazardous waste permits and other documents related to hazardous and mixed waste management at SNL/NM. The website is https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/sandia-national-laboratories/.

3.2 Meetings, Notices, and Tours

The DOE/NNSA provides information about ongoing environmental activities at semi-annual public meetings with presentations or posters; DOE and SNL personnel are available to provide information and answer questions. These are typically joint meetings with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and are held in the evenings; one meeting in April, and one in October. The meetings and poster sessions have been held in person at community centers and other locations near Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) or hosted online at the request of members of the public. Future meetings or poster sessions may be held in community centers or other locations, or they may be hosted online. To receive agendas for these meetings and poster sessions, interested persons can subscribe to the list for semi-annual public meetings as described in Section 3.3.2. The instructions for attending each online meeting and for submitting questions or comments will be provided with the agenda or notice for that meeting. Materials from past meetings are available at https://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/environmental-management-system/public-meetings/.

New Mexico regulations specify the public notice steps that we 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. Class 1 (minor) permit modifications do not include public meetings; notices describing the modifications are sent to people on the NMED facility list described in Section 3.3. 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/NNSA 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.

We 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 Health Orders and all requirements for access to SNL/NM and KAFB. Tour requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis to comply with any applicable restrictions on gatherings and to minimize disruption of ongoing research and development work. Tour requests may be made through

email to envinfo@sandia.gov. If tours are scheduled and 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

We update the IR and its index after submitting documents to the NMED or receiving documents from the NMED, as specified in Permit Part 1, Section 1.17. Interested persons can subscribe to be notified by email of updates to the IR and its index after new documents are added. To subscribe, an interested person can:

- Go to the IR index at https://www.sandia.gov/rcra/ or follow the link on https://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/. Select “Information Repository Updates” on the subscription menu, or
- Send an email to envinfo@sandia.gov. If sending an email, specify that the request is for IR updates.

3.3.2 List for Semi-Annual Public Meetings

We also maintain a mailing list of people and organizations who are interested in attending the semi-annual public meetings hosted by the DOE/NNSA or joint meetings with the 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:

- Go to the IR index at https://www.sandia.gov/rcra/ or
- Send an email to envinfo@sandia.gov. If sending an email, specify that the request is for public meeting agendas.

3.3.3 New Mexico Environment Department Facility List

The NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau 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

We send notices to people on this list for every modification to the Permit.

3.4 Questions and Requests for Information

We are committed to being responsive to reasonable public requests for information. Many documents are available in the IR at Zimmerman Library, online through the University of New Mexico at http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/snl/ or online through the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau at https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/sandia-national-laboratories/. 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 care, corrective action, long-term controls, or other Permit-related activity, send an email to envinfo@sandia.gov.

To request an electronic copy of a document that is listed in the IR when Zimmerman Library is closed due to Health Orders, send an email request with the document title and IR index number to envinfo@sandia.gov. If you require access to a physical copy, state that in the email request and provide your contact information so we can contact you to make arrangements for access.

To request other documents, please review the information available at the National Nuclear Security Administration Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) website https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/freedom-information-act-foia. Additional documents may be available online or requested through the DOE FOIA website at https://www.energy.gov/management/foia-reading-room.

3.5 Keeping Informed About Permit Actions of Interest

Interested persons may use any one or more 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 the SNL environmental website at https://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/,
- Attend semi-annual public meetings/poster sessions and permit-related public meetings/poster sessions, and
- Subscribe to mailing lists.

3.6 Providing Feedback

There are several ways for people or organizations to provide feedback to the DOE/NNSA and NTESS.

We provide opportunities for public involvement at any time via the SNL environmental website at https://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/ , and via e-mail to envinfo@sandia.gov.

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

- Semi-annual public meetings (presentations or poster sessions), held in April and October.

  Comment cards are available at in-person meetings. DOE and SNL personnel are available for questions and feedback, as time allows.

  During online presentations, attendees are welcome to ask questions and make comments through the meeting chat feature. Attendees may also ask questions in advance by sending an email to envinfo@sandia.gov. The agendas and notices for online meetings will include instructions for submitting comments and questions before each meeting.

- Public meetings for Class 2 and 3 modifications to the Permit. At each of these meetings, comments will be solicited, and comment submittal instructions will be provided.

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 regarding the CRP. Please include “CRP” in the subject line of the message. We also solicit comments during the semi-annual public meeting/poster session each April.

If the CRP is updated, it will be submitted to NMED for review by September 15th of each year. The updated plan will be posted on the SNL environmental website at https://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/ following NMED review and approval.

3.7 Minimizing Disputes

We give careful consideration to feedback, comments, and suggestions received during semi-annual meetings/poster sessions and other permit-specific public meetings.

We 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 the NMED annually when the CRP is updated.

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4.0 REFERENCES

Kieling, J. E. (NMED), January 2016. Letter to J.P. Harrell (U.S. Department of Energy NNSA/Sandia Field Office) and M. W. Hazen (Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico), "Approval, Community Relations Plan for Sandia National Laboratories Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Operating Permit, Sandia National Laboratories, EPA ID# NM5890110518, HWB-SNL-15-MISC," January 29, 2016.

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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," NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, Santa Fe, New Mexico, January 26, 2015.

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