

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project
Cerro Grande Fire
Accelerated Action Information Sheet**

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 18-003(e)
Septic System and Drain Field**

Technical Area (TA)-18 is located off Pajarito Road near the confluence of Pajarito Canyon and Threemile Canyon. The principal activities at TA-18 are the design, construction, research, development, and application of experiments that involve chain reactions of atoms splitting fast enough to be self-sustaining (called nuclear criticality).

PRS History: PRS 18-003(e) consists of an inactive cylindrical tank, two inlet lines, a drain field, and a wastewater outfall. The tank holds approximately 500 gallons. The system served several buildings in the main administrative area from 1951 to 1969. The septic lines exiting these buildings have been rerouted to connect to the Laboratory's Sanitary Wastewater System at TA-46.

PRS 18-003(e) is listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module of the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit. The site has been proposed for no further action, and there are no indications of residual risk at the site.

ER Project personnel sampled the tank interior, the drain field, and the outfall area at PRS 18-003(e) during a field investigation in 1994 and found slightly elevated levels of volatile organic compounds in the sand fill in the tank. Temporary and permanent groundwater monitoring wells were installed and sampled. An expedited cleanup was conducted in 1995 to remove the sand fill and pressure wash the tank interior. The tank was grouted in-place to prevent potential surface water infiltration.



Issues of Concern: The area upstream of PRS 18-003(e) burned during the Cerro Grande fire (a fire intensity rating of low to high). The drain field may be subject to erosion or scouring, and there may be surface and near-surface contamination associated with the drain field. There is no debris on the site that could enter the flood watercourse. The PRS is in an area undergoing a high level of construction activity for flood control.

Accelerated Action Status: PRS 18-003(e) is part of a voluntary corrective measures plan designed to

- Collect supplemental surface and subsurface soil samples,
- Determine the nature and extent of soil contamination (if present) from the supplemental data,
- Assess the potential human health and ecological risks, and
- Clean up the site by excavation, if necessary.

The tank at PRS 18-003(e) will not be removed as part of the voluntary corrective measures because it was grouted in place, making removal impractical.

Related Documents: EC Report, 1995; VCM Plan, March 17, 2000.