

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

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 18-002(b) -
Firing Site (Abandoned)**

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 chain reactions of atoms splitting fast enough to be self-sustaining (called nuclear criticality).

PRS History: PRS 18-002(b) was a firing site in Threemile Canyon near the present location of Building 18-32 at Critical Assembly Kiva II. The firing site consisted of a firing chamber constructed of 1-inch-thick steel. An aboveground armored bunker (a "battleship") was used to protect test shot instrumentation. The battery building (Building 18-16) was a ground-level wooden structure situated east of the battleship that housed the firing site's cable conduit system. It contained racks of lead batteries. The firing site, located a few feet west of the battleship front, was open at the top and set at ground level. The firing chamber was removed in 1945; the battery building was dismantled in 1951; and the battleship is still in place. ER Project personnel identified three firing points further up canyon that are associated with PRS 18-002(b).

PRS 18-002(b) is listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module of the Laboratory's



Hazardous Waste Facility permit. ER Project personnel recommended this

PRS for no further action; there are indications of residual risk at the site.

Issues of Concern: The area upstream of PRS 18-002(b) burned during the Cerro Grande fire (intensity ranking of low to high). There is a potential for erosion or scouring. The site does not contain debris that could enter the flood watercourse, but the battleship is located near the main drainage channel and could interfere with flood mitigation efforts.

Accelerated Action Status: During the Cerro Grande Accelerated Action PRS Status process, ER Project personnel noted that PRS 18-002(b) was a potential candidate for additional characterization and that the flood potential and mitigation efforts in Threemile Canyon needed to be evaluated.

Related Documents: November 2, 1995, also Notice of Deficiency