

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

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 18-012(c)  
Sump and Drain Lines**

*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 18-012(c) is a former equipment pit located in Building 18-141. The pit, which is now covered by a raised floor, once housed an ultrasonic cleaner containing ethanol and benzene in a closed system. This cleaner was used for cleaning beryllium parts and possibly radioactive items. In the event of a spill from the ultrasonic cleaner, the sump's floor drain would discharge through a 4-inch cast iron drain line leading out of the southern side of the building. The line headed eastward to an outfall that emptied into a drainage ditch east of the building. A 3-inch cast iron drain line, connected to a floor drain, exits the northeast corner of the building. This drain line empties into a dry well sump east of the building. Potable water backflow from a chilled-water cooling system was the only source of wastewater that could have entered this drain.



PRS 18-012(c) is not listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module of the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit. ER Project personnel have proposed this site for no further action, and there are no indications of residual risk at the site.

**Issues of Concern:** The area upstream of PRS 18-012(c) burned during the Cerro Grande fire (a fire intensity rating of low to high). There is a potential for erosion or scouring because of surface sediments at the outfall. There is no debris that could enter the flood watercourse; the outfall drain pipe could interfere with flood mitigation efforts.

**Accelerated Action Status:** ER Project personnel evaluated PRS 18-012(c) after the Cerro Grande fire. They determined that the potential impact on flood mitigation efforts needed to be evaluated in more detail.

**Related Documents:** November 2, 1995