

Appendix A

Acronyms and Glossary

APPENDIX A ACRONYMS, GLOSSARY, AND METRIC CONVERSION TABLES

A-1.0 ACRONYMS

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMI	corrective measures implementation
CMS	corrective measures study
COPC	chemical of potential concern
DOE	Department of Energy
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
ER	environmental restoration
ESH	environment, safety, and health
FR	Federal Register
HPT	High Performing Team
HSWA	Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984
HWB	Hazardous Waste Bureau
Laboratory	Los Alamos National Laboratory
MDA	material disposal area
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
PBX	plastic-bonded explosives
POC	point of compliance
PRS	potential release site
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RDX	1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazacyclohexane (Cyclotrimethylenetrinitramine)
RFI	RCRA facility investigation
RME	reasonable maximum exposure
TA	technical area
TBD	to be determined
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
VOC	volatile organic compound

A-2.0 GLOSSARY

Action level. Health- and environmental-based concentrations derived using *chemical*-specific toxicity information and standardized exposure assumptions. Action levels can be developed on a facility-specific basis or can be taken from standardized lists (61 Federal Register 19446). Contamination found in a particular *medium* below an appropriate action level would not generally be subject to *remediation* or further study.

Administrative authority. The Director of the New Mexico Environment Department, or his/her designee, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Alluvial. Relating to geologic deposits or features formed by running water.

Assessment. (1) The act of reviewing, inspecting, testing, checking, conducting surveillance, auditing, or otherwise determining and documenting whether items, processes, or services meet specified requirements. (2) An evaluation process used to measure the performance or effectiveness of a system and its elements. In this document, assessment is an all-inclusive term used to denote any of the following: audit, performance evaluation, management system review, peer review, inspection, and surveillance.

Chemical of potential concern (COPC). A *chemical*, detected at a site, that has the potential to adversely affect human *receptors* due to its concentration, distribution, and mechanism of toxicity. A COPC remains a concern until *exposure pathways* and *receptors* are evaluated in a site-specific human health *risk assessment*.

Corrective action. Action to rectify conditions adverse to human health or the environment.

Corrective measures study (CMS). A formal process to identify and evaluate remedy alternatives for *releases* at the facility (55 Federal Register 30798).

Detection limit. Minimum concentration that can be determined by a single measurement by an instrument; implies a specified statistical confidence that the analytical concentration is greater than zero.

Disposal. The discharge, deposit, injection, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of any *solid waste* or *hazardous waste* into or on any land or water so that such *solid waste* or *hazardous waste* or any constituent thereof may enter the environment or be emitted into the air or *discharged* into any waters, including *groundwaters*. (40 CFR Part 260.10)

Ecological screening level. An organism's exposure-response threshold for a given *chemical* constituent. The concentration of a substance in a particular *medium* corresponds to a *hazard quotient* (HQ) of 1.0 for a given organism below which no *risk* is indicated.

Environmental impact statement. Detailed report, required by federal law, on the significant environmental impacts that proposed major federal projects would have on the environment.

Evapotranspiration. The combined *discharge* of water from the earth's surface to the atmosphere by evaporation from lakes, streams, and soil surfaces, and by transpiration from plants.

Hazard index (HI). The sum of *hazard quotients* for multiple *contaminants* to which a *receptor* (j) is determined to be exposed, i.e., $HI_j = \sum_i HQ_{ij}$.

HSWA module. Module VIII of the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. This permit allows the Laboratory to operate as a *treatment, storage, and disposal facility*.

Hydrogeologic Workplan. The document that describes activities planned by the Laboratory to characterize the hydrologic setting beneath the Laboratory and to enhance the Laboratory's *groundwater* monitoring program.

Mixed waste. Waste that contains both *hazardous waste* (as defined by *RCRA*) and *radioactive waste* (as defined by the Atomic Energy Act [AEA] and its amendments).

Model. A mathematical approximation of a physical, biological, or social system.

Potential release site (PRS). Refers to potentially contaminated sites at the Laboratory that are identified either as *solid waste management units* (*SWMUs*) or *areas of concern* (*AOCs*). PRS refers to *SWMUs* and *AOCs* collectively.

RCRA facility assessment. Usually the first step in the RCRA corrective action process, to identify potential and actual releases from solid waste management units and make preliminary determinations about releases, the need for corrective action, and stabilization measures.

RCRA facility investigation (RFI). The investigation that determines if a release has occurred and the nature and extent of the contamination at a hazardous waste facility. The RFI is generally equivalent to the remedial investigation portion of the Comprehensive Environment Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process.

Regional aquifer. Geologic material(s) or unit(s) of regional extent whose saturated portion yields significant quantities of water to wells, contains the regional zone of saturation, and is characterized by the regional water table or potentiometric surface.

Remediation. The process of reducing the concentration of a *contaminant* (or *contaminants*) in air, water, or soil media to a level that poses an acceptable *risk* to human health and the environment; the act of restoring a contaminated area to a usable condition based on specified standards.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The Solid Waste Disposal Act as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. (40 CFR 270.2)

Risk. A measure of a negative or undesirable impact associated with an event.

Screening action level. *Medium*-specific concentration level for a *chemical* derived using conservative criteria below for which it is generally assumed that there is no potential for unacceptable *risk* to human health. The derivation of a SAL is based on conservative exposure and land-use assumptions. However, if an applicable *regulatory standard* exists that is less than the value derived by *risk*-based computations, it will be used for the SAL.

Site conceptual model. A qualitative or quantitative description of sources of contamination, environmental *transport* pathways for contamination, and biota that may be impacted by contamination (called *receptors*) and whose relationships describe qualitatively or quantitatively the *release* of contamination from the sources, the movement of contamination along the pathways to the exposure points, and the uptake of *contaminant* by the *receptors*.

Solid waste management unit (SWMU). Any discernible unit at which *solid wastes* have been placed at any time, irrespective of whether the unit was intended for the management of *solid or hazardous waste*. Such units include any area at a facility at which *solid wastes* have been routinely and systematically *released*. This definition includes regulated units (i.e., landfills, surface impoundments, waste piles, and land *treatment* units) but does not include passive leakage or one-time spills from production areas and units in which wastes have not been managed (e.g., product storage areas).

Vadose zone. The unsaturated zone. Portion of the subsurface above the regional *water table* in which pores are not fully saturated.

Watershed. The region drained by, or contributing waters to, a stream, lake or other body of water and separated from adjacent drainage areas by a divides such as a ridge or summit of high ground.

Metric to English Conversions

Multiply SI (Metric) Unit	by	To Obtain US Customary Unit
kilometers (km)	0.622	miles (mi)
kilometers (km)	3281	feet (ft)
meters (m)	3.281	feet (ft)
meters (m)	39.37	inches (in.)
centimeters (cm)	0.03281	feet (ft)
centimeters (cm)	0.394	inches (in.)
millimeters (mm)	0.0394	inches (in.)
micrometers or microns (μm)	0.0000394	inches (in.)
square kilometers (km^2)	0.3861	square miles (mi^2)
hectares (ha)	2.5	acres
square meters (m^2)	10.764	square feet (ft^2)
cubic meters (m^3)	35.31	cubic feet (ft^3)
kilograms (kg)	2.2046	pounds (lb)
grams (g)	0.0353	ounces (oz)
grams per cubic centimeter (g/cm^3)	62.422	pounds per cubic foot (lb/ft^3)
milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg)	1	parts per million (ppm)
micrograms per gram ($\mu\text{g}/\text{g}$)	1	parts per million (ppm)
liters (l)	0.26	gallons (gal.)
milligrams per liter (mg/l)	1	parts per million (ppm)
degrees Celsius ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	$9/5 + 32$	degrees Fahrenheit ($^{\circ}\text{F}$)

Metric Prefixes

Term	Power of 10	Symbol
mega-	10^6	M
kilo-	10^3	k
deci-	10^{-1}	d
centi-	10^{-2}	c
milli-	10^{-3}	m
micro-	10^{-6}	μ
nano-	10^{-9}	n
pico-	10^{-12}	p