



AIRPORT LANDFILL

Fact Sheet

Site History

- Operated as a municipal landfill receiving both Los Alamos County and LANL waste - Zia Company 1943-1965.
- Operated as a municipal landfill receiving both Los Alamos County and LANL waste - Los Alamos County 1965-1973.
- Debris routinely burned between 1943 and 1965.
- Debris placed in hanging canyon and excavated trenches.
- Debris moved from western end of landfill to new trenches (PRS 73-001(d)) in 1984.

Environmental Investigations

Field efforts conducted from 1994 to 1998 at the landfill and associated Potential Release Sites (PRSs) which collected the following types of data including:

- Geophysical;
- Surface/sub surface soils and channel sediments;
- Shallow soil gas; and,
- Vadose monitoring well (leachate/deep soil gas).

Chemicals of Potential Concern

- Soil gas Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) such as methane, vinyl chloride, and benzene are well within observed levels as other municipal solid waste landfills.
- Leachate was detected in isolated areas and the level is comparable to other municipal landfills. Leachate is not present as "free liquid" but is being sampled via an applied vacuum. Leachate should have been reduced and/or eliminated due to recently completed surface water run-on control measures.
- Most constituents are below New Mexico Water Quality Control standards.

Current and Remaining Work

- The RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) report was delivered to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on November 30, 1998.
- The RFI report approved by NMED in 1999.
- High Performing Team was formed in 2000 to work toward the final remedy.

Proposed Remedy

Streamlined closure as a Solid Waste Municipal Landfill. Proposal is based on the following:

- Landfill operated as municipal landfill;
- Contaminants present are within levels seen at other municipal landfills; and,
- Presumptive remedies have been developed by EPA specifically to address municipal landfills.

Resolution

- Due to the nature and age of waste in the landfill, a Subtitle D-Type (municipal) closure was recommended and approved.
- Lack of contaminant levels in excess of levels seen in other municipal (Subtitle D-Type) landfills is indicative of the nature of debris in the landfill and the relatively minor potential for offsite migration via leachate or soil gas.
- Groundwater contamination is extremely unlikely based on the small amount of leachate present, installation of run-on control measures, and depth to groundwater (approx 1200 ft.).
- It is recommended that established presumptive remedies for municipal landfills be evaluated and selected. Coordination on specific NMED requirements regarding solid waste landfill closures will be crucial to selection of the selected remedy.