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Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Strategic Vision Presentation

DOE Environmental Management, Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA)



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Acronym List

AOC	area of concern	LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
AA	aggregate area	MDA	material disposal area
BOK	basis of knowledge	MDPR	Middle DP Road
CGP	Construction General Permit	MSGP	Multi-Sector General Permit
CH-TRU	contact-handled transuranic waste	N3B	Newport News Nuclear—BWXT Los Alamos
CME	corrective measures evaluation	NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
CMI	corrective measures implementation	NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration
CMP	corrugated metal pipe	NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
CO	Consent Order (2016 Compliance Order on Consent)	PAH	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
D&D	decommission and demolition	PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
DOE	Department of Energy	RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
EJ	environmental justice	RDX	Royal Demolition Explosive
EM-LA	Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office	SSLs	soil screening levels
ENS	early notification system	SVE	soil vapor extraction
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	SVOC	semi-volatile organic compound
ER	environmental remediation	SWB	standard waste box
FRP	fiberglass-reinforced plywood	SWMU	solid waste management unit
HAZCat	hazard category (1, 2, 3 or below 3)	TA	technical area
HWFP	Hazardous Waste Facility Permit	TRU	transuranic
IP	Individual Permit	VOC	volatile organic compound
IWL	industrial waste line	WIPP	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
L&A	Longenecker & Associates		





Commonly Used Terms and Definitions

aggregate area: a geographic area defined by watershed and canyon running east to west toward the Rio Grande River

AOC: an area where a potential release of hazardous waste or constituents may have occurred; not for solid waste management

CO: an enforceable agreement between NMED and DOE for the cleanup of legacy waste at LANL; issued in 2016 and modified in 2017; establishes an effective structure for accomplishing cleanup work on a priority basis through the use of dedicated campaigns with achievable and enforceable milestones and targets

CO campaign: consists of one or more projects, and includes one or more milestones and targets; may be revised annually based on work progress, changed conditions, risk and funding; are prioritized based on risks to workers, the public, and the environment, as well as stakeholder priorities, as agreed by DOE and NMED

corrective measure alternative: all actions taken to clean up, remove, remediate, contain, treat, monitor, assess, evaluate or in any other way address hazardous materials in the indoor and outdoor environment (aka alternative, cleanup alternative, cleanup approach, cleanup strategy, remediation strategy, remedy)

deferred site: the SWMUs and AOCs for which full investigation and/or remediation is deferred until such time as the SWMU or AOC is taken out of service or otherwise becomes accessible (e.g., firing sites and active facilities)

environmental media: soil, sediment and surface water and groundwater





Commonly Used Terms and Definitions

HAZCat 1: hazard analysis shows the potential for significant off-site consequences

HAZCat 2: hazard analysis shows the potential for significant on-site consequences

HAZCat 3: hazard analysis shows the potential for only significant localized consequences

legacy waste: waste generated before 1999

non-CO campaigns: base program compliance monitoring activities (e.g., groundwater monitoring, surface water monitoring, sediment sampling) that are not specifically part of a campaign, but are done continuously according to existing work plans

slab: a building's foundation (aka concrete slab)

SWMU: any discernible unit where solid waste was placed at any time, and from which NMED determines there may be a risk of a release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents, irrespective of whether the unit was intended for the management of solid or hazardous waste; such units include any area at which solid wastes have been routinely and systematically released; and they do not include one-time spills

TRU waste: materials containing alpha-emitting radionuclides; with half-lives greater than twenty years and atomic numbers greater than 92; and in concentrations greater than 100 nanocuries per gram of waste





What is the EM-LA Strategic Vision

Strategic Vision Development | Department of Energy

General Overview

In 2022, the Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management Los Alamos (EM-LA) initiated the development of a long-term strategic vision for future LANL Legacy Cleanup Campaigns. The goals of the EM-LA strategic vision are to enhance stakeholder engagement in cleanup decisions, and to align with the objectives of the Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contract, regulatory interfaces, anticipated cleanup funding and desired outcomes. The EM-LA strategic vision will be integrated with DOE's broader goals for the legacy cleanup completion.





- Develop a long-term strategic vision from the “ground-up” for the remaining legacy cleanup that is based on consensus of values and priorities from stakeholders and pueblos in northern New Mexico
- Obtain vision through sustained and robust education and engagement
- Aid EM-LA in prioritizing the remaining cleanup work





Objectives

- Provide stakeholders and pueblos (i.e., engagement groups) an opportunity to play a meaningful role in shaping the direction and completion of remaining legacy cleanup work at Los Alamos
- Build and strengthen relationships with stakeholders and pueblos
- Develop a realistic and stakeholder-informed vision document for remaining LANL legacy cleanup to assist DOE in prioritization
- Consider existing regulatory commitments
- Determine how best to use available funding and resources





What is the EM-LA Strategic Vision Phases



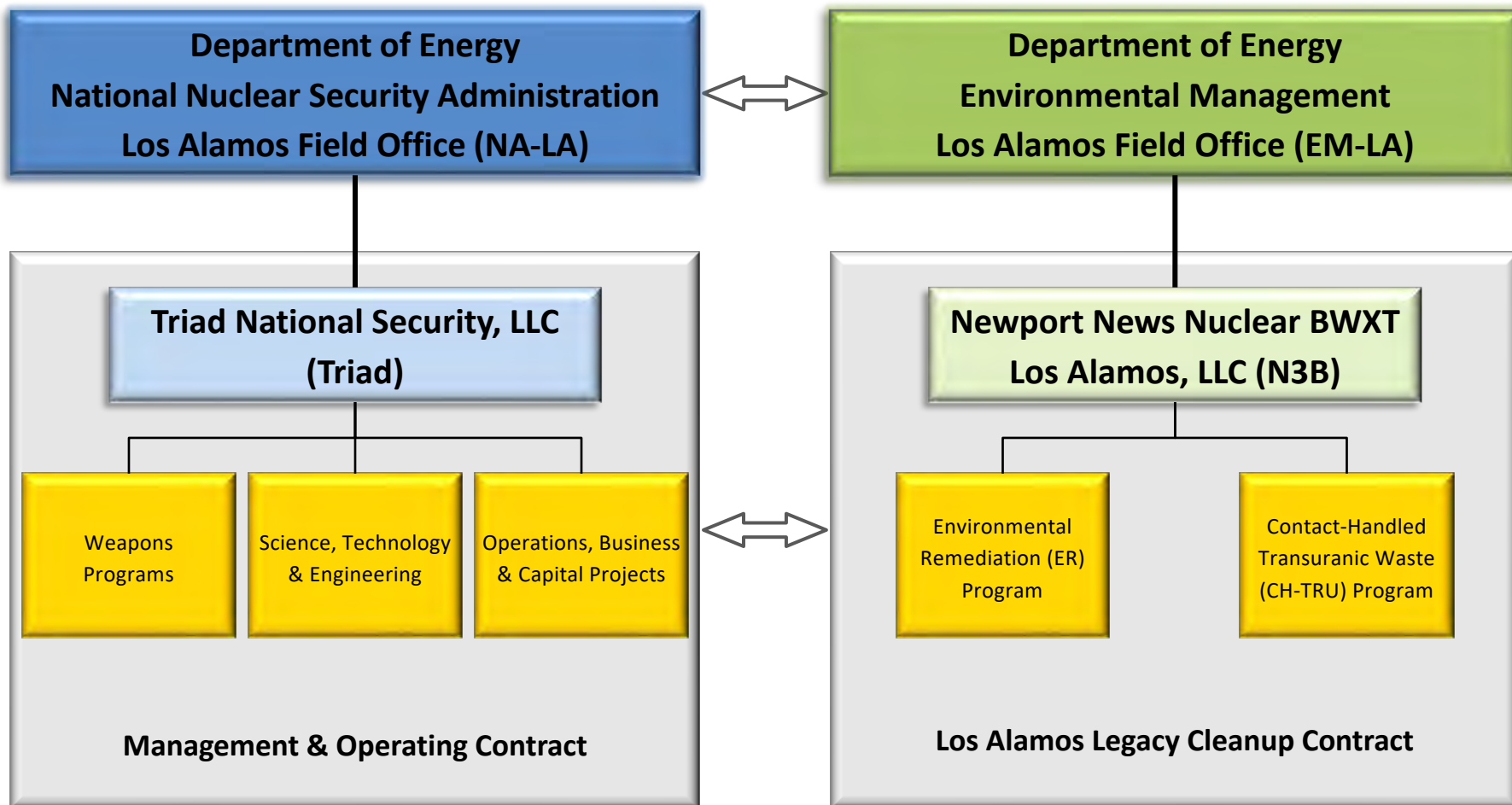
We envision a multi-phase process that we anticipate will wrap up at the end of 2024

Note: There are no pre-determined conclusions for this process—this vision will be developed through the values and feedback we hear from you





Organizational Structure





Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Mission





EM-LA Scope Areas

Contact-Handled Transuranic Waste (CH-TRU) Program

Waste Management, Characterization and Shipping

Transuranic Waste

Mixed/Low-Level Waste

Remediation Waste

Hazardous Waste

Other Waste Streams

Legacy Waste Retrieval and Processing

Above Ground Inventory Waste Processing

Below Ground Waste Processing: Corrugated Metal Pipes

Below Ground Waste Processing: Pit 9 Waste Processing

Below Ground Waste Processing: Trenches A-D Waste Processing

Below Ground Waste Processing: Shafts Waste Processing

Other Work

Ion Beam Facility D&D

Environmental Remediation (ER) Program

Groundwater Monitoring

Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan

Surface Water Monitoring

Multi-Sector General Permit

Individual Permit

Consent Order Campaigns

Chromium Interim Measures & Characterization

Chromium Final Remedy

Royal Demolition Explosives Characterization

Royal Demolition Explosives Remedy

Historical Properties Completion

Supplemental Investigation Reports

Southern External Boundary

Sandia Canyon Watershed

Pajarito Watershed

Upper Water Watershed

TA-21 D&D and Cleanup

Material Disposal Areas (MDAs) A & T Remedy and General's Tanks

MDA C Remedy

MDA AB Remedy

MDA H Remedy

MDAs G & L Remedy

Soil Remediation

Middle DP Road Site Completion

- FY22 approved budget: \$292 million
- N3B FY22 cleanup budget: \$236 million





Regulatory Framework

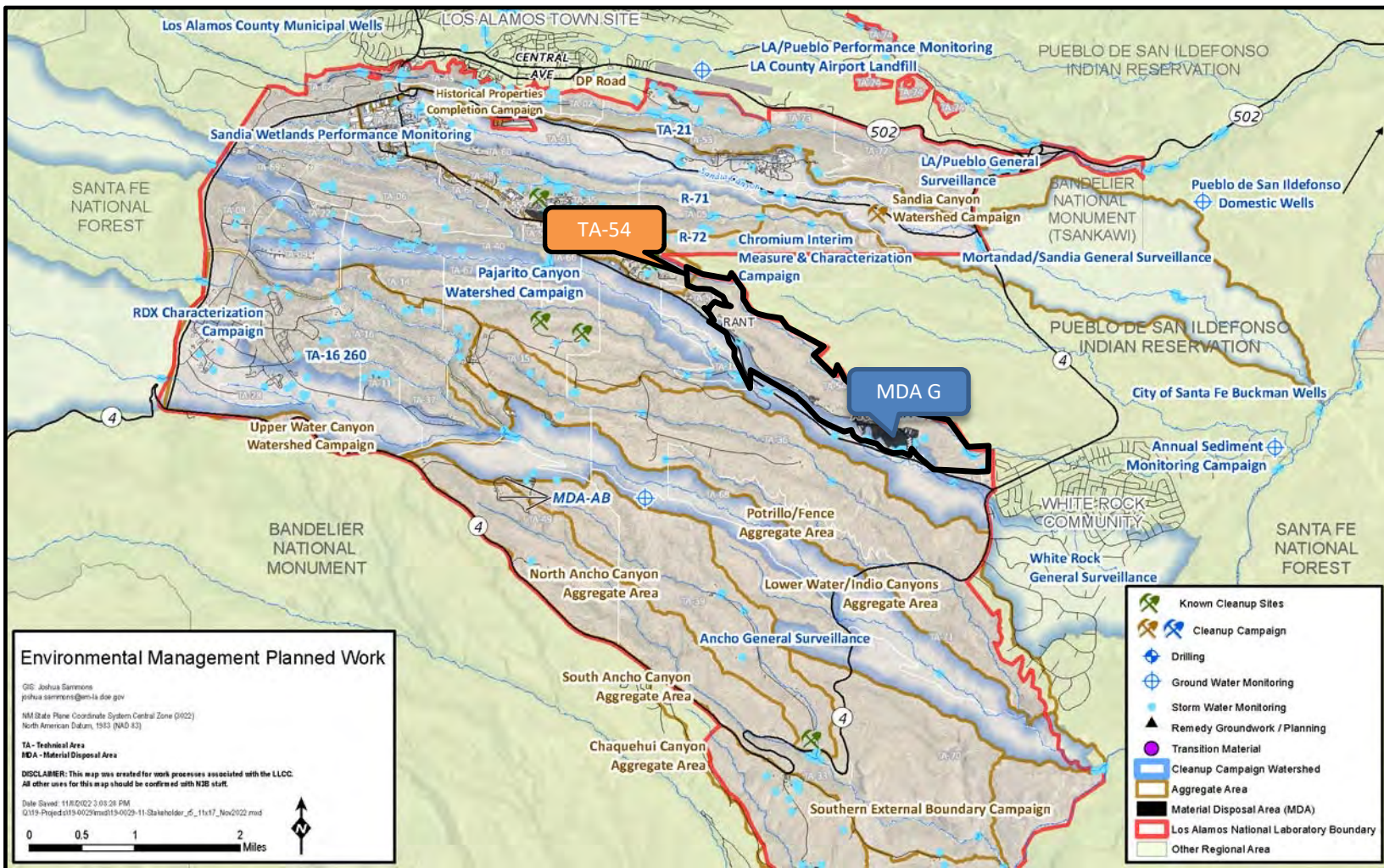
Clean Water Act (Regulator: U.S. EPA)	
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Multi-Sector General Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes storm water discharges associated with industrial activities • N3B maintains authorization for two separate facilities, Areas G and L and the TA-54 Maintenance Facility • N3B is the signatory for this permit
NPDES Construction General Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible projects are authorized to discharge storm water associated with construction activities • Currently, N3B has six projects with active coverage under this general permit • N3B is the signatory for this permit
NPDES Individual Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For discharges of storm water associated with industrial activities from specified solid waste management units and areas of concern • EM-LA and N3B are signatories to the current, administratively continued permit • EPA Region 6 issued a new permit in August 2022
Discharge Permits (Regulator: NMED Groundwater Quality Bureau)	
Discharge Permit (DP) 1793: General Land Application of Treated Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM-LA and N3B are signatories
DP 1835: Injection Wells for Chromium Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM-LA and N3B are signatories
Clean Air Act (Regulator: NMED Air Quality Bureau)	
Title V/VI: Stationary Sources (Small Site Generator) Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM-LA and N3B sources are integrated with site-wide program • EM-LA, N3B, NA-LA and Triad (i.e., all four parties) are signatories
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Regulator: NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau)	
Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Facility Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM-LA and N3B have a separate program for their operations • All four parties are signatories
2016 Compliance Order on Consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM-LA is the signatory
<p>This table is a general listing of regulatory requirements. EM-LA and its contractor must also comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DOE Orders and other applicable local, state or federal regulations. Additional information on regulatory requirements can be found in the Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contract (https://www.energy.gov/em-la/contracts).</p>	







TA-54: CH-TRU Projects



TA-54: CH-TRU Fact Sheet

Los Alamos National Laboratory
TRU Waste Management at Area G
Fact Sheet

CAMPAIGN NAME: TRU Waste Management at Area G	LOCATION: Area G, which covers 53 acres, lies inside Technical Area 54 of Los Alamos National Laboratory	PROJECT ACTIVITIES: Store, remediate and ship LANL's above-ground transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	PROJECT GOAL: Eliminate contaminated waste from past LANL operations so that it no longer poses a risk to the environment or public health	ESTIMATED COMPLETION: After 2022
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HISTORY
 Technical Area 54 (TA-54) is Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) legacy waste management area. Opened in 1957, Area G is a site within TA-54 that contains past radioactive waste disposal areas. This area includes 32 pits, 194 shafts, and four trenches with depths ranging from 10 to 65 feet below the original ground surface. Area G is now dedicated to storing, characterizing, and remediating LANL's transuranic (TRU) and low-level waste to ship it offsite for permanent disposal.

TRU WASTE
 TRU waste is radioactive waste containing more than 100 picocuries of alpha-emitting transuranic isotopes. The waste is stored in drums, 55-gallon metal cans, and other containers. TRU waste at LANL is "defense-related," meaning it can be safely managed in a way that does not pose a risk to the environment.

NOVEMBER 2020 UPDATE:
 N3B began shipping from the Petroleum and Hydrocarbons (PH) facility. The facility is now able to load TRU waste into its primary container facility, enabling shipping to WIPP.

SAFETY SYSTEMS
 The TRU waste containers are stored in domes equipped with fire detection and air monitoring systems. The containers are routinely monitored and inspected. TRU waste from LANL's past defense-related activities is intended to be disposed deep underground at the Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southeastern New Mexico. Prior to shipment, the containers and their contents are independently non-destructively analyzed and certified under a state- and Environmental Protection Agency-approved program to confirm that containers meet the WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria.

SHIPPING WASTE OFFSITE
 Mobile loading capabilities are fully operational at Area G, enabling TRU waste to be shipped to WIPP weather and schedule permitting. TRU waste containers destined for WIPP—such as drums, standard waste boxes, and 10-drum overpacks—are secured inside robust shipping casks that have met strict Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requirements and testing under extreme conditions.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 3,500 Containers of above-ground TRU waste to be removed from Area G
- 67 Projected number of shipments to WIPP from October 2020 through April 2023
- 7500 Estimated number of shipments to complete the Area G TRU waste shipping campaign

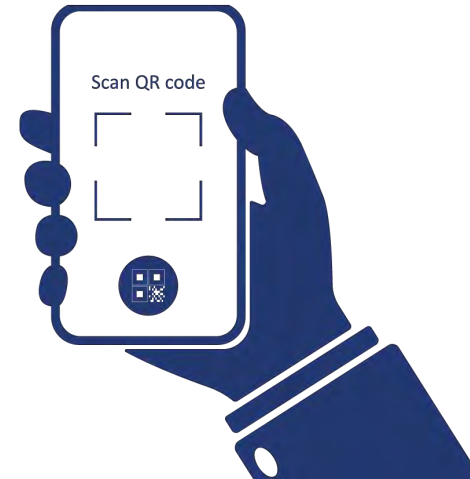
at Area G unrelated to the current TRU campaign include TRU waste from below-grade pits, shafts, and trenches. Work is ongoing to remediate and ship this waste for transport to offsite disposal.

Waste Storage Domes of Area G

CONTACT DOE Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office | (505) 257-7950 | publicaffairs.em@em.doe.gov

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Revised: 11/22/2020

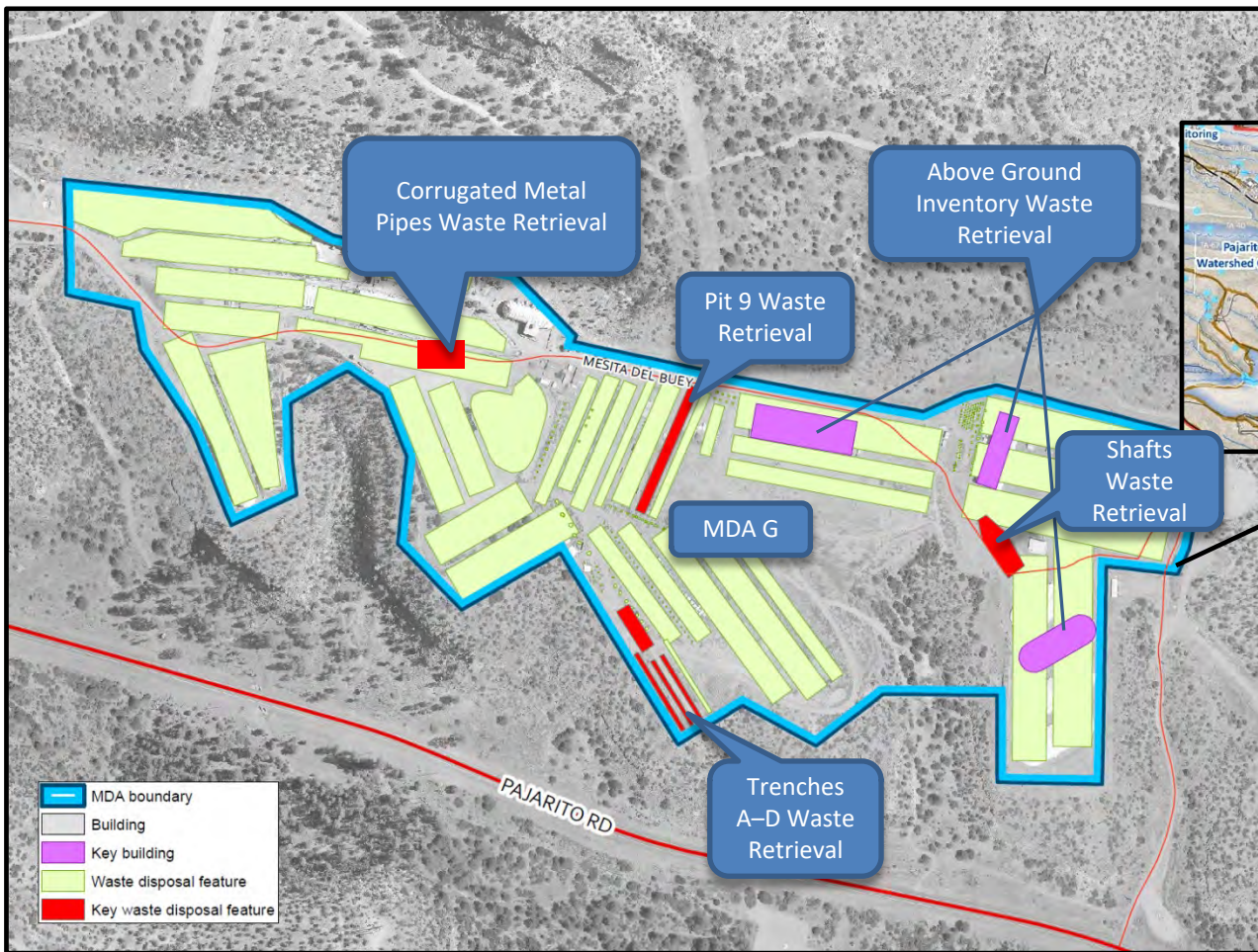


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TA-54: CH-TRU Projects



CMPs Excavation and Processing



CMP Retrieval: Removing Overburden Soil and Plywood



CMP Size Reduction Mock-up Activities



Pit 9 Waste Emplacement



Waste Containers Were Placed into Pit 9 from 1974 through 1979



Fiberglass-reinforced Plywood Boxes in Pit 9



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Trenches A–D Waste Emplacement



Arrays Have the Capacity to Hold Two 30-Gallon Drums Stacked One Above the Other



Arrays of Sealed Concrete Casks



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33 Shafts



*The 33 Shafts
at MDA G*



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Above Ground TRU Waste Storage

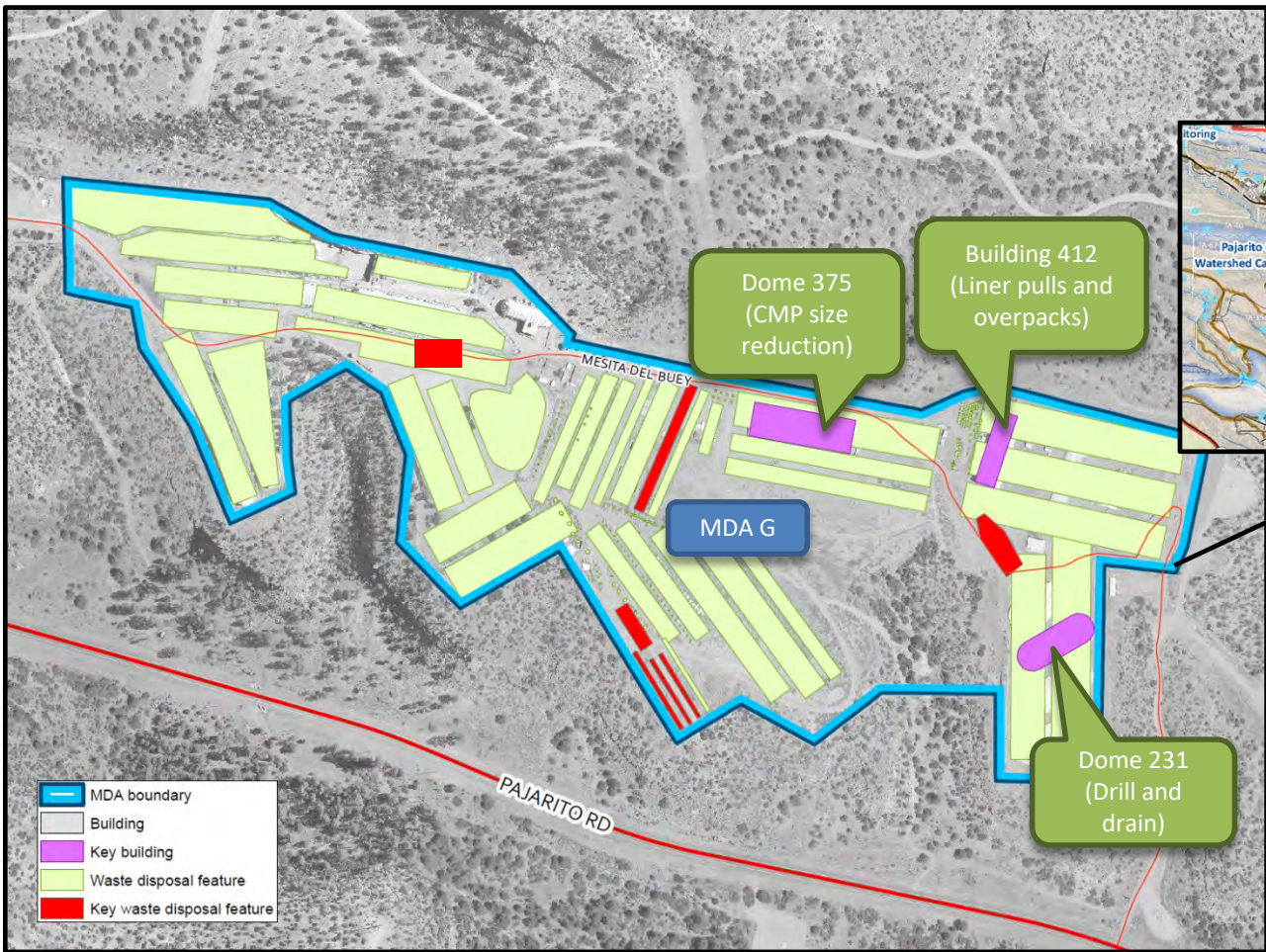


***Above Ground
Waste Inventory***





TA-54: Processing Facilities



Processing Facilities: Dome 231



Drum Processing Area at PermaCon Inside Dome 231

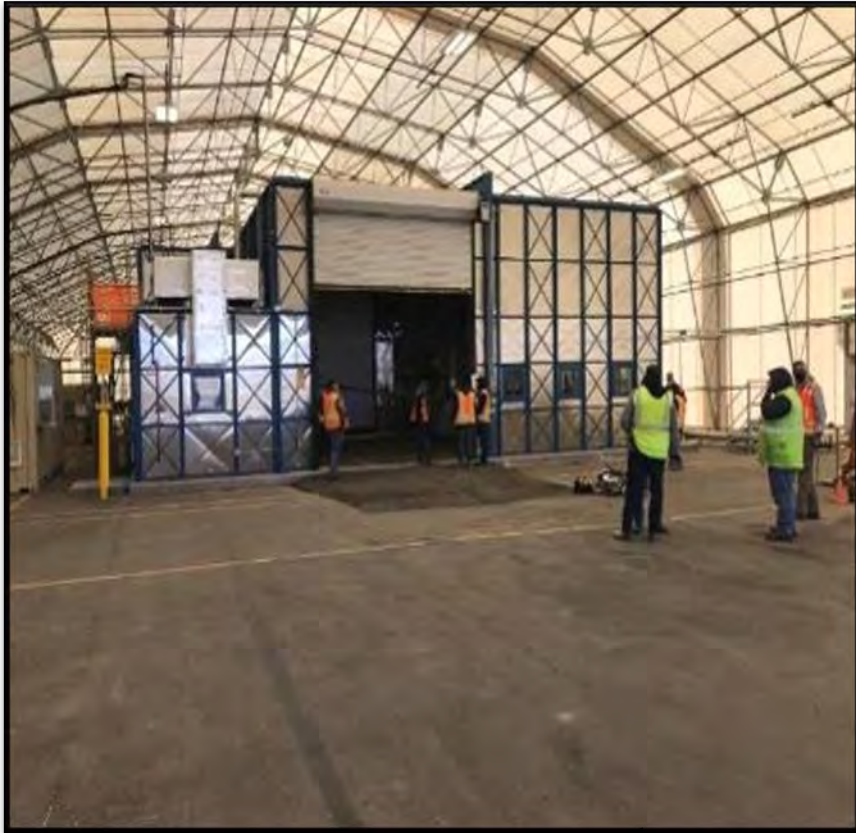


Mock-up of Dome 231 Glovebag Drill and Drain to Process Drums Not Compliant for WIPP



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Processing Facilities: Dome 375



*Dome 375 PermaCon,
Looking East into Cell 3*



*CMP Shear Ventilation
Contamination Enclosure
(Shown During Mock-ups)*



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Processing Facilities: Building 412



High Energy Real Time Radiography Scan of a Sealed Container



Repackaging Waste at Building 412



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CH-TRU Complexity, Risks and Challenges

CH-TRU Projects	Complexity, Risks and Challenges ¹	Status
CMPs Waste Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in TA-54, Area G, there are 158 CMPs, totaling 439 m³ of cemented radioactive waste • CMPs are approx. 20 feet long and 30 inches in diameter with approximately 4- to 59-inch thick concrete plugs at each end • Each CMP will be moved into Dome 375, size reduced, characterized and then loaded in SWBs; processing time for size reduction will vary due to the nature of the material • Once loaded in a SWB, it must be certified for TRU disposal and shipped to WIPP; the timeline for certification varies • Work safety hazards involve high temperature environment, industrial hazards, heavy equipment hazards and radiological equipment hazards 	In process
Pit 9 Waste Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in TA-54, Area G, there are 4,079 containers, totaling 1,583 m³ of waste • Before processing, each drum must be radiographed to learn about contents and determine how the drum will be processed and repackaged • Challenge in processing capacity and timeline due to Dome 375 setup for CMP size-reduction; Dome 375 will require facility modifications before initiating processing 	Not started
Trenches A–D Waste Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 710 containers, which are organized in arrays of sealed concrete casks with a capacity to hold two 30-gallon drums stacked one above the other • There are 420 concrete casks, and of those, 357 casks were used to store TRU waste • Will retrieve 81 m³ of waste to process in Dome 375 • However, the challenge in processing capacity and timeline is because Dome 375 is setup for CMP size-reduction, and will require facility modifications to process Pit 9 waste and additional modifications for Trenches A–D • Additionally, Trenches A–D contain the most highly concentrated and technically challenging waste streams that will have to be redistributed to process 	Not started



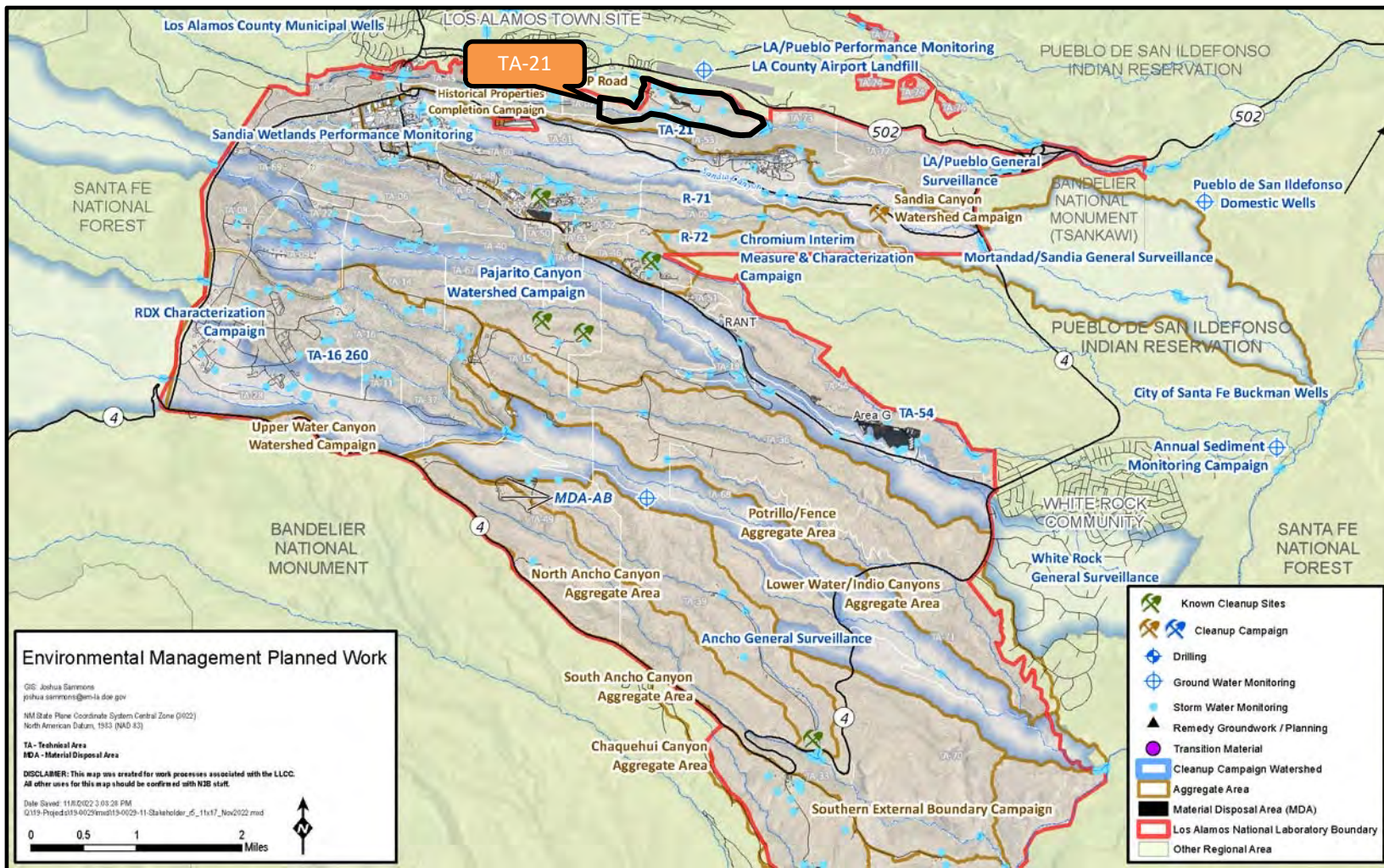
CH-TRU Complexity, Risks and Challenges

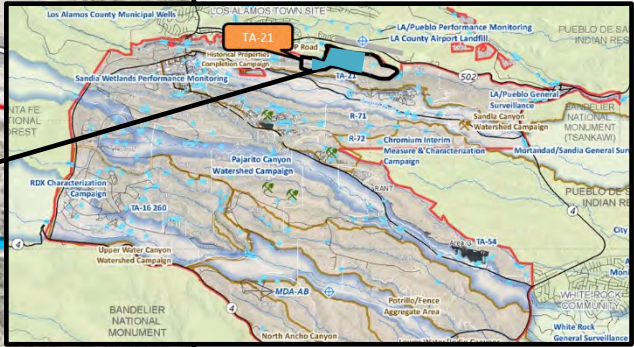
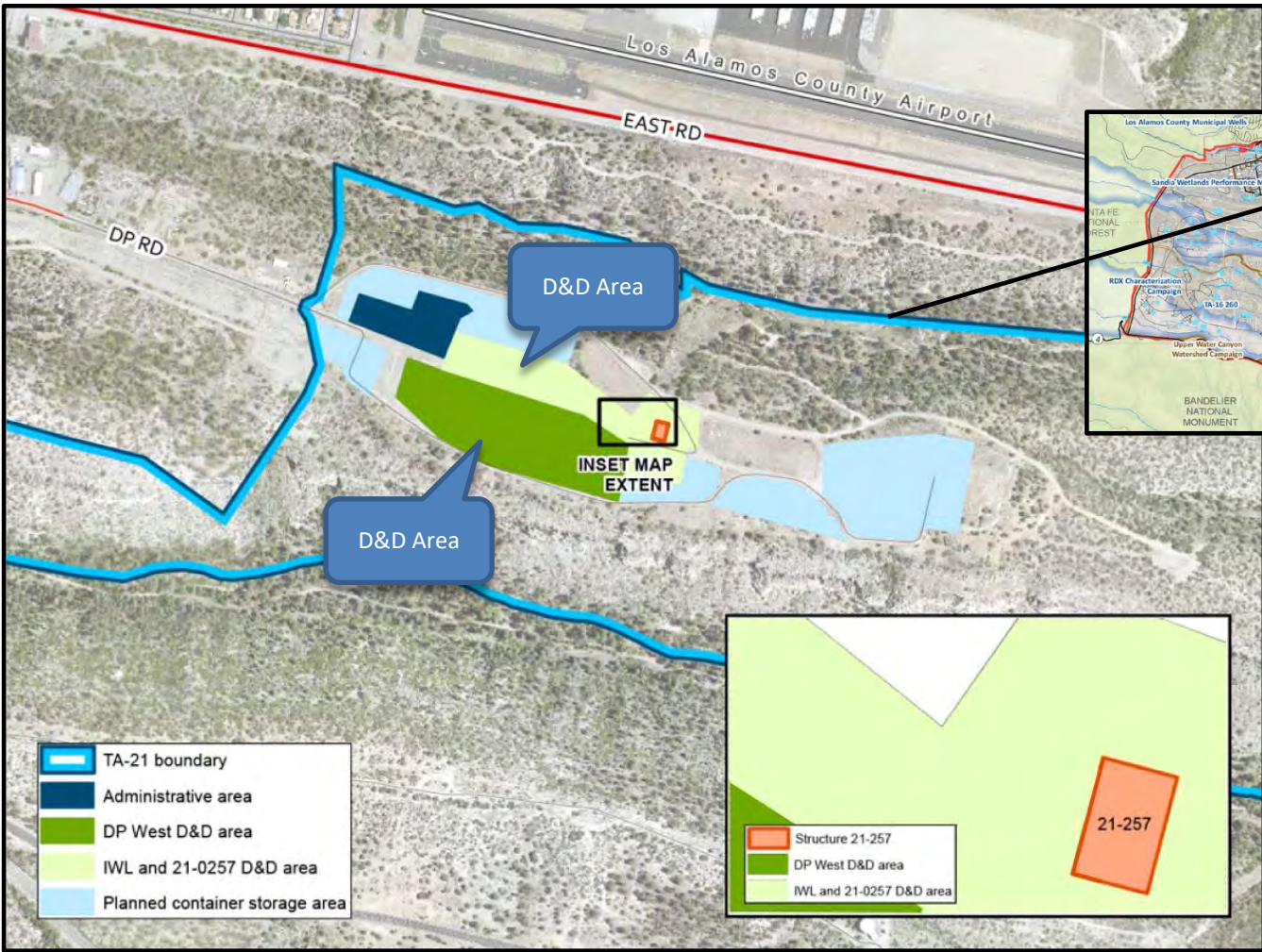
CH-TRU Projects	Complexity, Risks and Challenges ¹	Status
Shafts Waste Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in TA-54, Area G, stored in vertical shafts that are buried 100 feet deep with CMPs lined near top surface • Contain five hot cell liners, five tritium packages, and a single waste package referred to as the 17th Canister; each requires separate retrievals • Challenge in processing capacity and timeline due to Dome 375 setup for CMP size-reduction, which will require facility modifications 	Not started
Above Ground Inventory Waste Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located at multiple storage units across TA-54, Area G, totaling 2,327 containers (e.g., 55-gallon drums, 85-gallon drums, 110-gallon drums and SWBs) • In various phases of characterization, remediation and packaging for shipment off-site facilities, including WIPP • Diamond saw required for size-reduction of large items (i.e., Bolas Grandes) • There is a standard operating process involving the design, procurement, installation and startup of a Hi-MAR glovebox, and the timeline for each process varies • Challenge and complexity is the timeline related to waste certification via BOK process that may take up to a year 	In process

1. General or high-level complexities, risks and challenges that apply to all projects include:
 - Worker safety
 - Staffing challenges: clearance (obtaining and maintaining), specialty certifications, SMEs
 - Inventory shortage: SWBs, etc.
 - Equipment: maintenance, scheduling of equipment to be delivered (subcontractors bringing drills could take up to a year to schedule)
 - Unknown or unforeseen events
 - Natural disasters: fires, droughts, etc.
 - Transportation and injuries









TA-21 D&D



***Building 21-257 to be
Decommissioned and Demolished***



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TA-21 Fact Sheet



Los Alamos National Laboratory Technical Area 21 Fact Sheet



CAMPAIGNS: Technical Area 21 2010 and Cleanup Material Disposal Areas A & T Remedy

LOCATION: On DP Mesa, south of the Los Alamos County Airport

CAMPAIGN DESCRIPTION: Decommission and remove processing structures, waste lines and tanks, debris and obsolete equipment, and implement the final remedy

CAMPAIGN GOAL: Clean up to environmental standards while making land available for transfer to Los Alamos County

SITE HISTORY

Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) Technical Area 21 (TA-21) was the Manhattan Project and Cold War-era complex of buildings that housed the plutonium processing facility, and where groundbreaking tritium research for energy, environment and weapons defense research took place. At the height of operations, TA-21 contained 125 buildings.

NOVEMBER 2020 STATUS

Final remedial investigation (FRI) completed. Remedial investigation (RI) Building 257 and its contents have been removed from the site. Final RI report is being submitted for completion of an assessment.

CLEANUP ACTIVITIES TO DATE

- ✓ All buildings (except Building 257, the Radiological Liquid Waste Facility), water tanks, and a sewage treatment facility were decommissioned, decontaminated and demolished
- ✓ Material Disposal Area B (MDA B), LANL's oldest waste disposal site, was excavated, and, after confirmation sampling, was transferred to Los Alamos County
- ✓ Waste was shipped off-site and scrap metal was recycled
- ✓ MDA V was closed and transferred to Los Alamos County
- ✓ MDA U was closed, but has not yet been transferred to Los Alamos County

KEY FUTURE ACTIVITIES

2022: Submit to NMED a summary report describing the installation and instrumentation of the vadose moisture monitoring system and completion of moisture monitoring characterization sampling at MDA T.

2022: Submit to NMED a report documenting completion of R-65, a monitoring well planned for the north edge of DP Mesa between MDA A and MDA T. The well will be drilled in accordance with the NMED-approved work plan.

2023-2025: Define potential final remedies for MDAs A and T and begin the process for public review and final selection by NMED, implement the final remedy, complete site remediation, and complete all documentation necessary to allow transfer of the property to Los Alamos County for beneficial community use.

Produced by Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contractor, N3B Los Alamos, on behalf of DOE's Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office



During operating years

BUSINESS WHILE COMPLETING CLEANUP

- Operate with the highest safety standards necessary to protect the workers and the public.
- Communicate with key stakeholders about the project status and related issues.
- Strive to minimize disruption while safely maintaining schedule commitments.

Additionally:

- All remediation is conducted within the TA-21 fence line.
- Workers park within the TA-21 fence line.
- Contact information is posted at the TA-21 gate.
- Daily signposts to users.
- Most truck traffic enters LANL via the truck route and Troney Drive, and exits via the Hill Road.
- Working hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

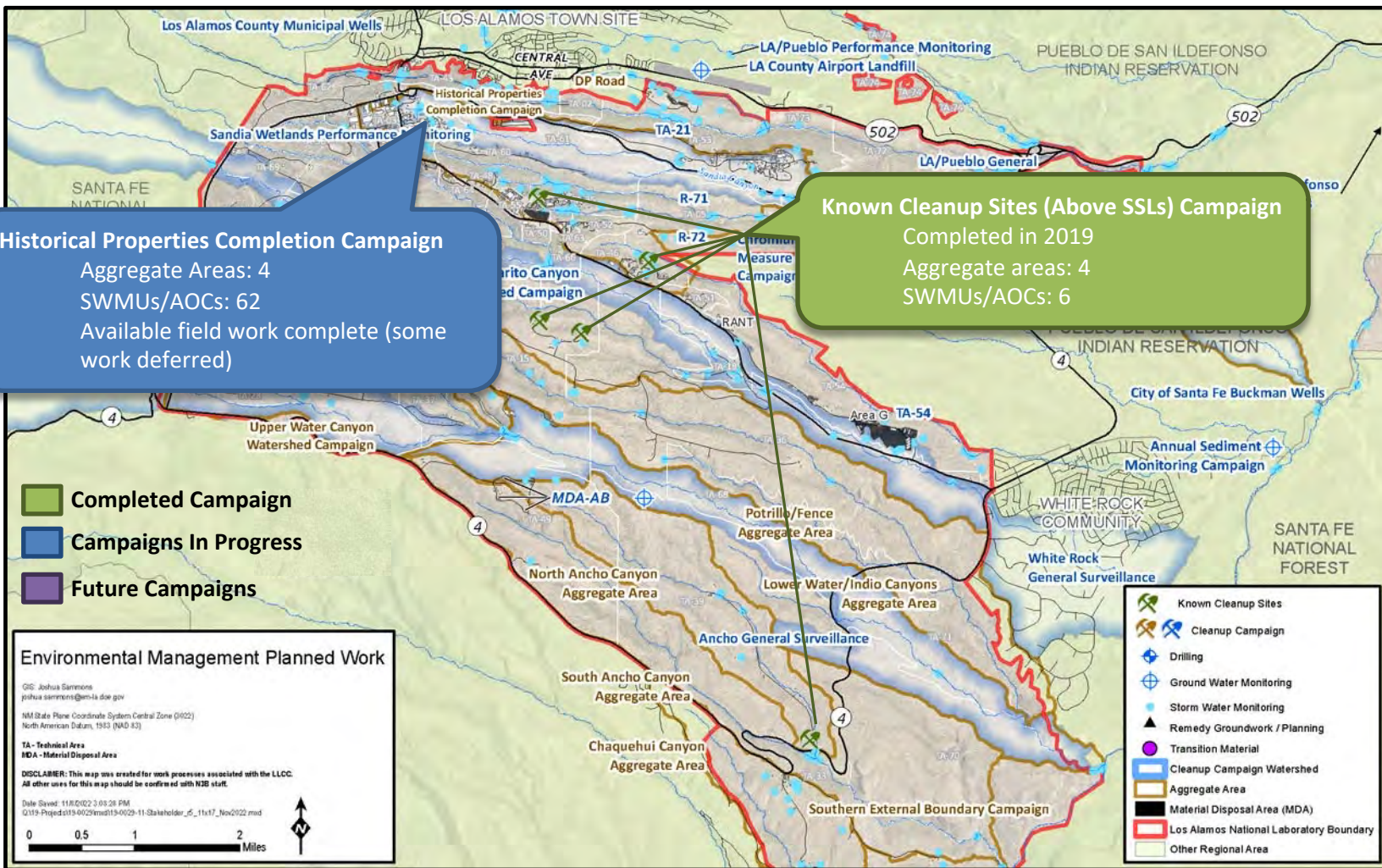


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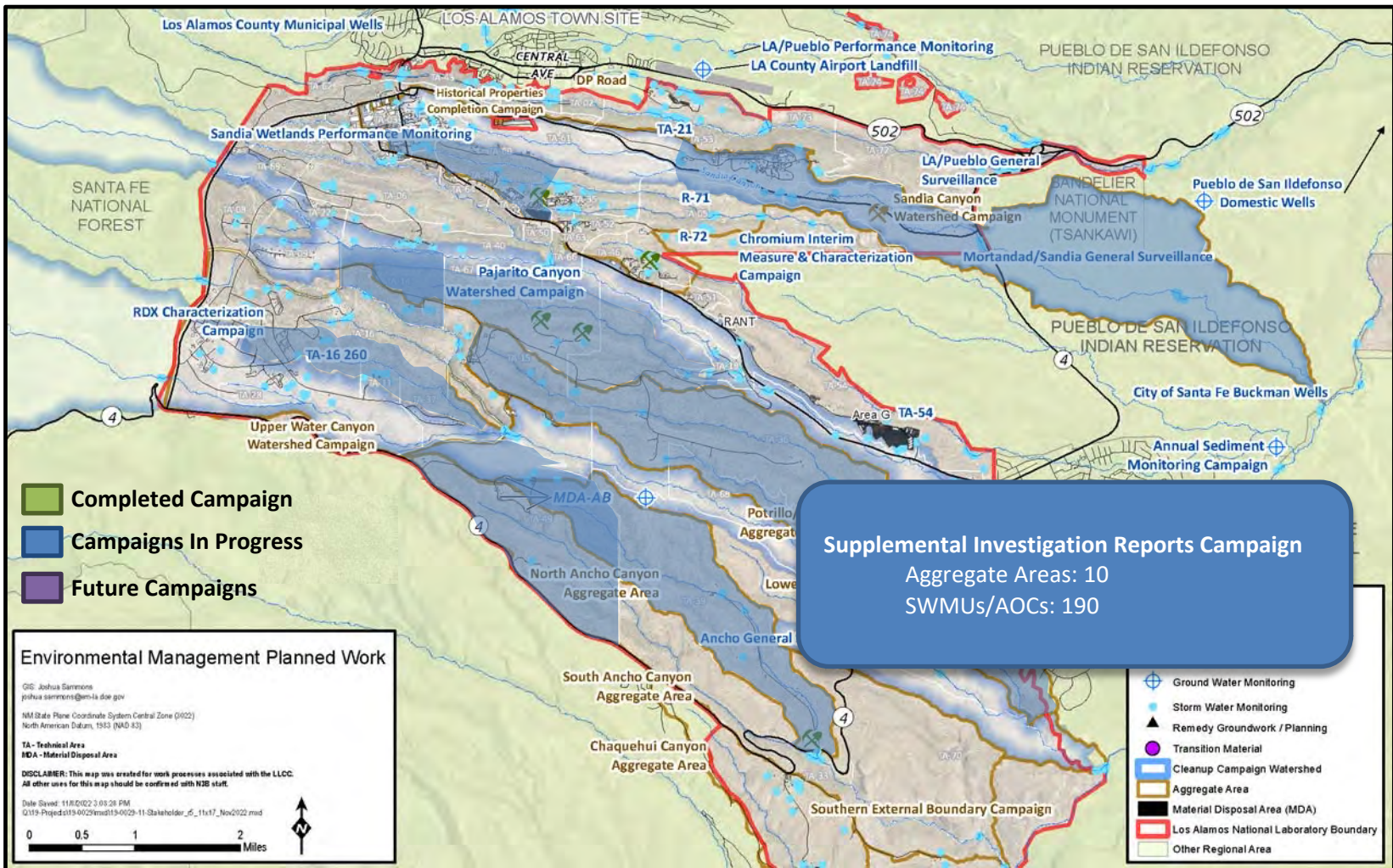


Aggregate Areas



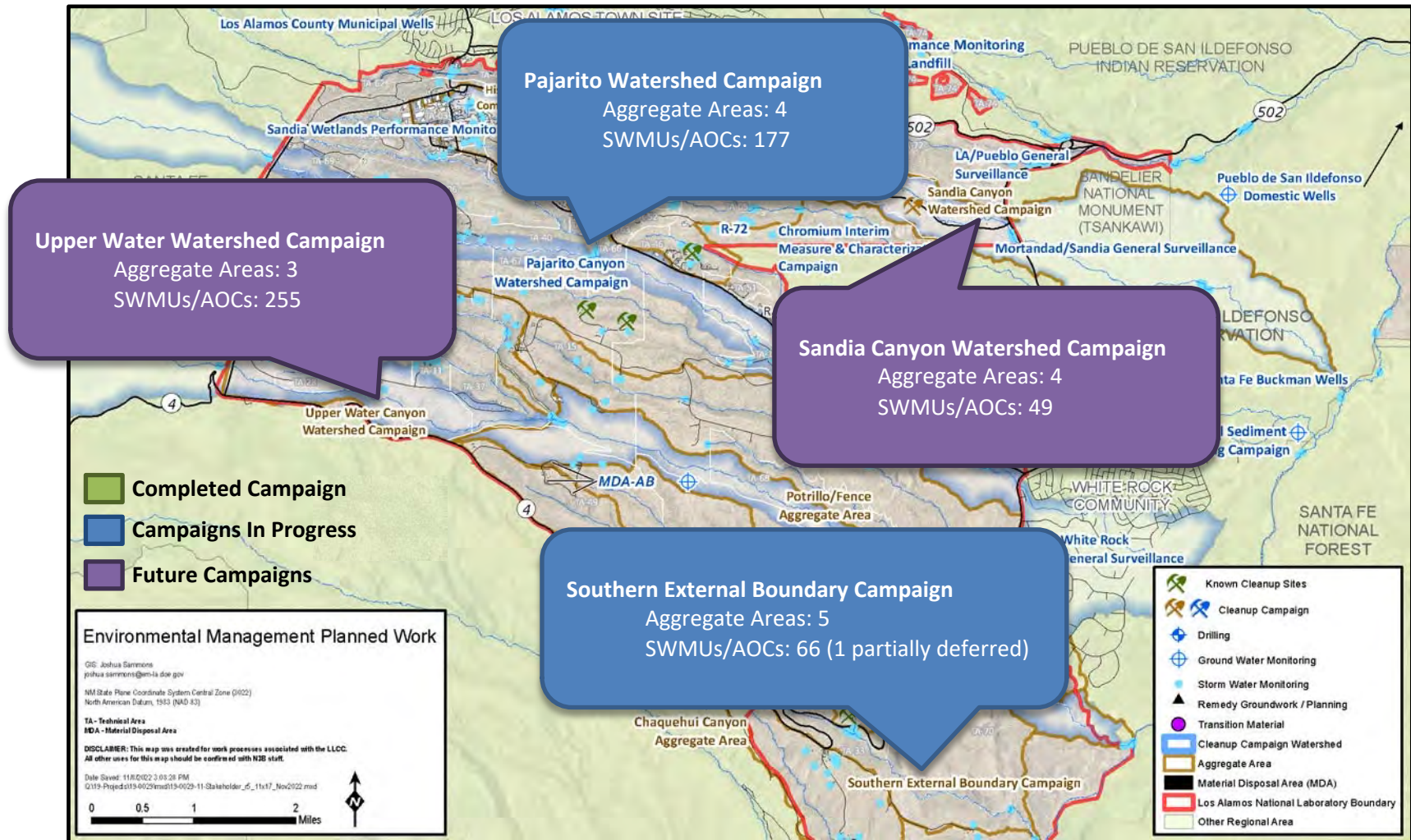


Aggregate Areas





Aggregate Areas



Aggregate Area Photos



Soil Sampling in Upper Water Canyon

Installing Compost Sock in Pajarito Canyon

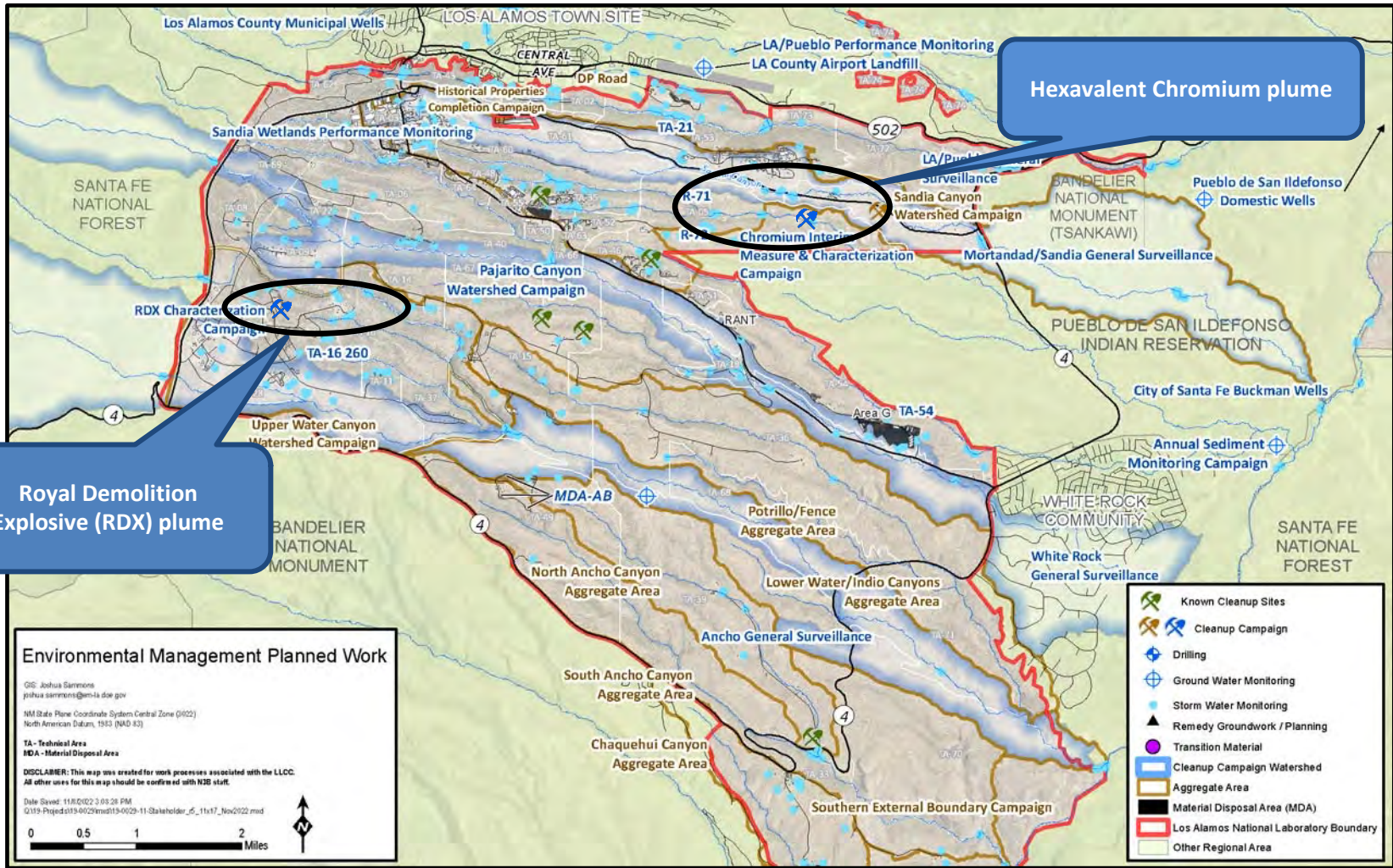


Storm Water Controls in Sandia Wetlands





Groundwater



Royal Demolition Explosive (RDX) plume

Hexavalent Chromium plume

Environmental Management Planned Work

GIS: Joshua Simmons
joshua.simmons@em-la.doe.gov

NM State Plane Coordinate System Central Zone (5022)
North American Datum, 1983 (NAD 83)

TA - Technical Area
MDA - Material Disposal Area

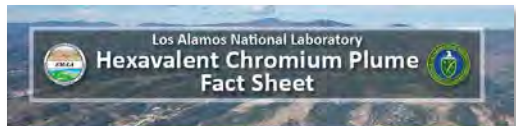
DISCLAIMER: This map was created for work processes associated with the LLCC. All other uses for this map should be confirmed with N3B staff.

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- Known Cleanup Sites
- Cleanup Campaign
- Drilling
- Ground Water Monitoring
- Storm Water Monitoring
- Remedy Groundwork / Planning
- Transition Material
- Cleanup Campaign Watershed
- Aggregate Area
- Material Disposal Area (MDA)
- Los Alamos National Laboratory Boundary
- Other Regional Area



Hexavalent Chromium Plume Fact Sheet



CAMPAIGN: Chromium Interim Measure and Characterization	LOCATION: Between Sandia and Montanad canyons at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)	CONTAMINANT OF CONCERN: Hexavalent chromium	PROJECT GOAL: Control migration of the hexavalent chromium plume and reduce the plume footprint, while investigating the final remedy.
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HISTORY

From 1956 to 1972, workers at a non-nuclear power plant at LANL periodically flushed hexavalent chromium-contaminated water from the cooling towers into Sandia Canyon. At the time, potassium dichromate was commonly used as a corrosion inhibitor. The water flowed down Sandia Canyon as surface water, penetrated the underlying rock layers, and in time seeped into the regional aquifer beneath Sandia and Montanad canyons. LANL ceased releasing chromium-contaminated water in 1972.

JUNE 2023 STATUS

- Implementing the Interim Measure along the western well collection portion of the plume.
- Assessing performance & conducting research in the western portion of the plume.
- Defining final remediation strategies.

BY THE NUMBERS

50 parts per billion	New Mexico chromium groundwater standard	1/4 mile	Approximate distance from the plume edge to the nearest Los Alamos County groundwater well
1 mile, long x 1/2 mile wide x 100 ft. thick x 30 ft. deep	Approximate size of the hexavalent chromium plume	0	Amount of chromium contamination in Los Alamos County drinking water wells
900 - 1,000 feet	Depth to the regional aquifer. Chromium is located within the top 100 feet of the aquifer.	5 miles	Distance (as measured at the surface) of the plume from the Rio Grande
32	Number of monitoring, extraction and injection wells installed in and around the plume.		

Produced by Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contractor, N3B Los Alamos, on behalf of DOE's Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office

AT A GLANCE

Plans that have a high probability of meeting environmental protection goals. In the case of the chromium plume, a combination of extraction of ground treatment, and injection of treated water is being used to control of the plume, and hold it within the LANL boundary.

HOW IT WORKS

Contaminated water is pumped to a central treatment facility via underground piping, treated using ion exchange, then re-injected along the down gradient edge of the plume. This "recirculation" approach has been successful to date at reducing the footprint of the plume.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Interim Measure is successfully controlling potential plume migration. The methodology is expected to be integrated into the final remediation strategy. The final remedy is determined through a process with NMED that also involves public participation.



FINAL REMEDY

The Interim Measure is successfully controlling potential plume migration. The methodology is expected to be integrated into the final remediation strategy. The final remedy is determined through a process with NMED that also involves public participation.

CONTACT DOE Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office | LegacyCleanupFeedback@em-la.doe.gov

Revised: 11/02/2023

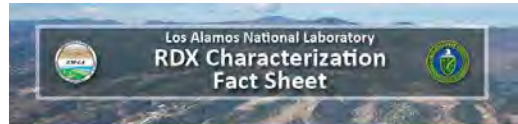
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RDX Fact Sheet



CAMPAIGN: Royal Demolition Explosive (RDX) Characterization	LOCATION: Technical Area 16 and 16B Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)	CAMPAIGN DESCRIPTION: Characterize groundwater movement and RDX concentrations; perform risk assessment; and issue a corrective measure evaluation (CME), as needed	CAMPAIGN GOAL: Ensure contamination from past LANL operations does not threaten human and environmental health
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HISTORY

Building 260 at LANL's Technical Area 16 was the conventional, high explosive machining facility. From 1951-1996, 13 pumps discharged effluent containing high explosive compounds (RDX, HMX and TNT) and barium through the building outfall and into Cañon de Valle soils, surface water and groundwater beneath Cañon de Valle were contaminated. RDX in groundwater was first identified in the late 1990s and discovered in the regional aquifer in 2005.

RDX CHARACTERISTICS

- It is drinking water quality (DWQ) grade RDX.
- RDX is an organic man-made product that does not occur in nature.
- RDX has a low water solubility but does not bind significantly to soils, so it can reach into groundwater.
- The state's tap water screening level is based on a 150-pound person drinking one liter of contaminated water per day, 350 days a year, for 25 years. That person's increased cancer risk over 70 years would be 1 in 100,000.

REGULATORY WATER QUALITY

The New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) is reviewing results of 8 RDXs released at the Environmental Protection Agency screening level. Additional screening levels may require further investigations in the future.

RDX AT A GLANCE

- ✓ RDX was used widely in World War II and remains common in military applications.
- ✓ RDX is an organic man-made product that does not occur in nature.
- ✓ RDX has a low water solubility but does not bind significantly to soils, so it can reach into groundwater.
- ✓ The state's tap water screening level is based on a 150-pound person drinking one liter of contaminated water per day, 350 days a year, for 25 years. That person's increased cancer risk over 70 years would be 1 in 100,000.

AREA HYDROLOGY

Scientists are working to refine their understanding of how RDX migrated through the subsurface at LANL. Conceptual models based on multi-year studies indicate the primary RDX migration pathway is via surface water moving down Cañon de Valle and seeping downward through the rock layers into the underlying groundwater zones (shallow to deep). Monitoring wells located in each of the groundwater zones provide information on the hydrologic connections and changes over time.

CLEANUP WORK CONDUCTED TO DATE

Surface soil cleanup in 2000-2001 and in 2009-2010 removed, and properly disposed of, approximately 3,500 cubic yards of high explosive-contaminated soil from the outfall area. Residual RDX remains in the subsurface groundwater. Long-term monitoring and maintenance is conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the corrective measure and provide information for the conceptual site model for RDX movement through surface water, springs and groundwater.

Produced by Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contractor, NRB Los Alamos, on behalf of DOE's Environmental Management, Los Alamos Field Office.

DEFINITION: CORRECTIVE MEASURES EVALUATION
A study to report identifying, assessing, and evaluating potential corrective measures alternatives for removal, containment, and/or treatment of pre-identified contamination and recommending a preferred alternative for remediation of such contamination.

2016 CONSENT ORDER
DOE and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) divides cleanup work campaigns is RDX Characterization. Recent and near future work includes:



for Royal Demolition Explosive in Deep Groundwater (FY15 Milestone). The report presents the results of hydrology, geology, and geochemistry studies, nature and extent of RDX, updates the Conceptual Site Model, and the screening of potential risk.

Submitted to NMED the Fate and Transport Modeling and Risk Assessment Report for RDX Contamination in Deep Groundwater (FY20 Milestone). The report evaluates risk to human health from exposure to RDX in groundwater. The report concludes that there is no risk to human health and that long term groundwater monitoring is protective.

If active remediation is necessary to protect groundwater, the DOE Office of Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office will submit to NMED a CME for RDX in the deep groundwater.

CONTACT DOE Environmental Management, Los Alamos Field Office | LegacyCleanupFeedback@em-la.doe.gov

Revised: 11/02/2021

Produced by Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contractor, NRB Los Alamos, on behalf of DOE's Environmental Management, Los Alamos Field Office.



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Hexavalent Chromium Plume Interim Measures



Ion Exchange Unit Where Groundwater Contaminated with Hexavalent Chromium is Treated



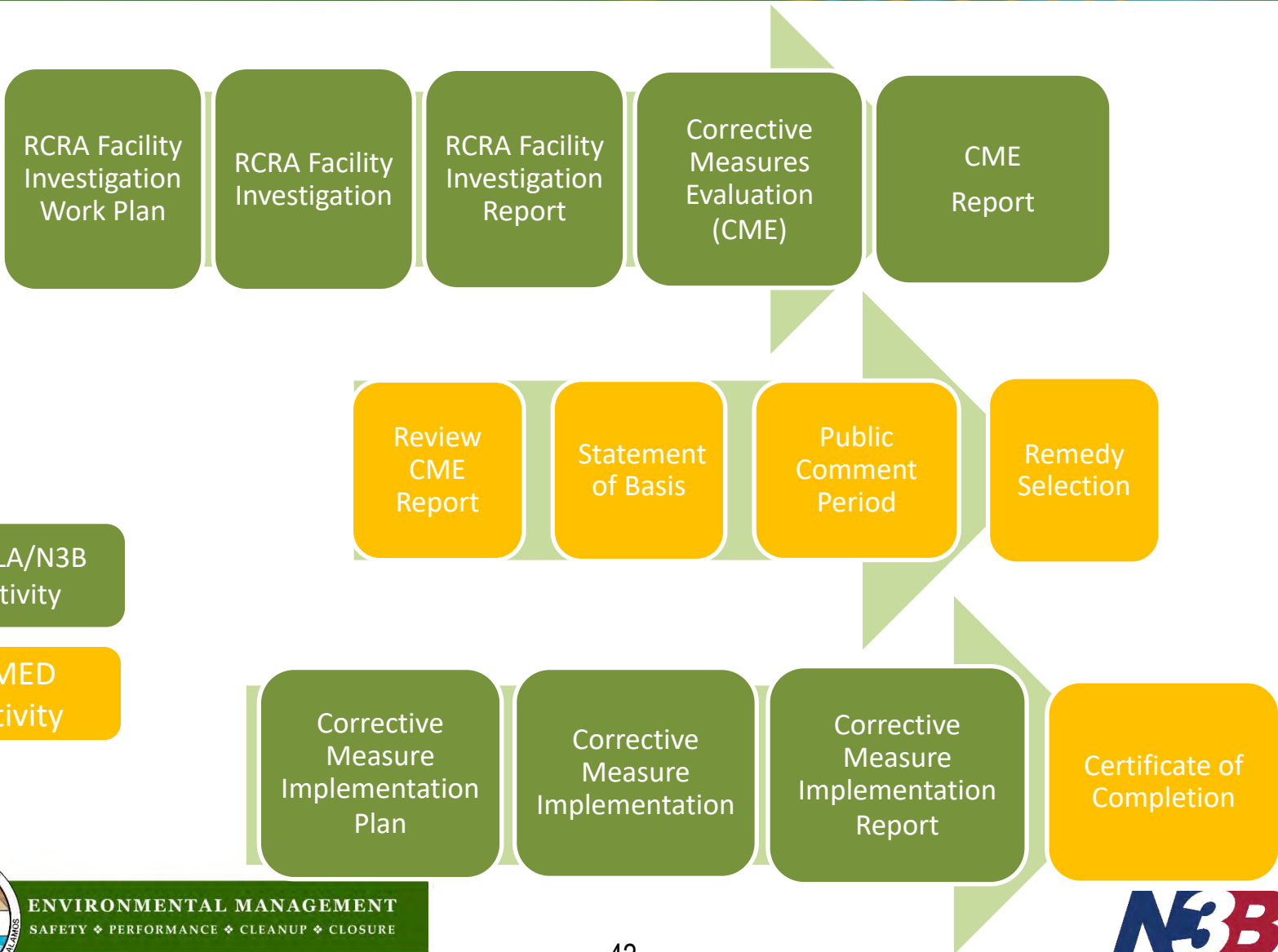
Drilling Operations for Groundwater Monitoring Well R-71



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Consent Order Corrective Action Process (where CME is required)



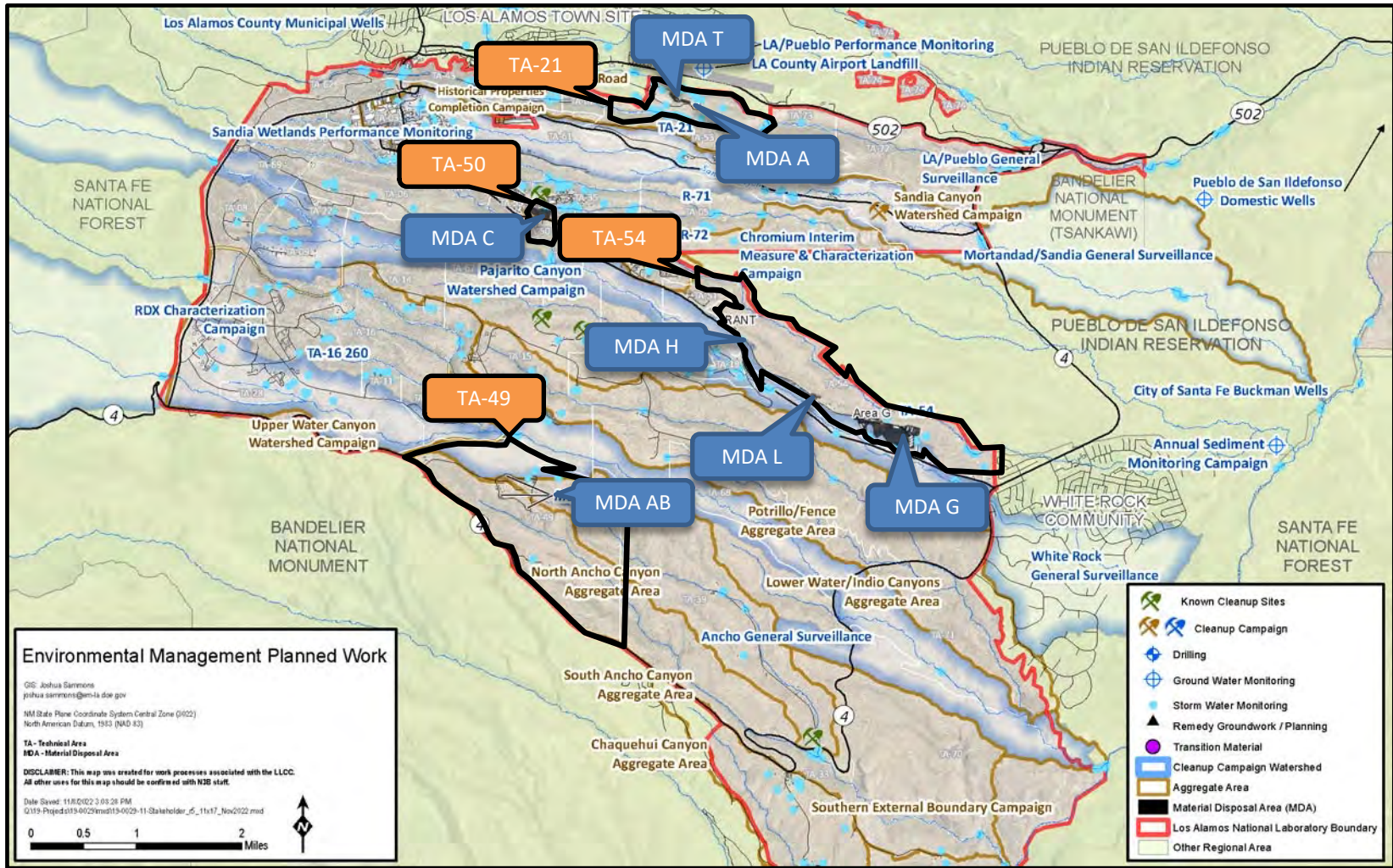


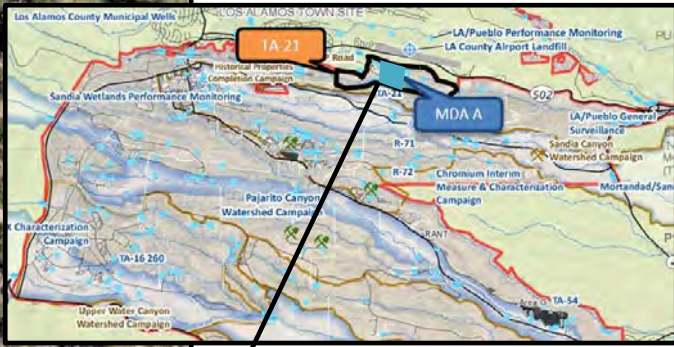
Threshold Criteria	Balancing Criteria
Be protective of human health	Long-term reliability and effectiveness
Attain media cleanup objectives	Reduction of toxicity, mobility or volume of waste and contaminated media
Control the source(s) of releases	Short-term effectiveness
Comply with applicable standards for management of wastes	Implementability
	Cost

See EM-LA website for detailed info on criteria: <https://www.energy.gov/em-la/strategic-vision-development>

A cleanup approach must achieve all four threshold criteria to move on to balancing criteria.

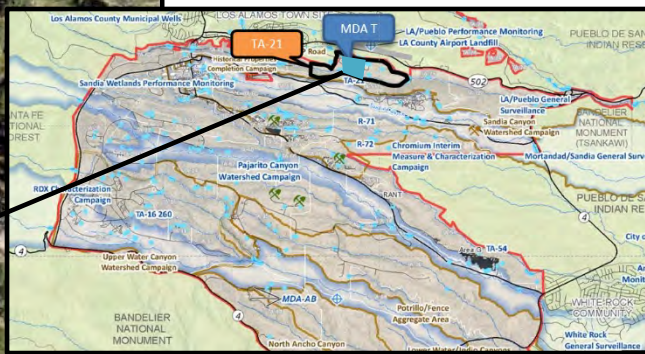


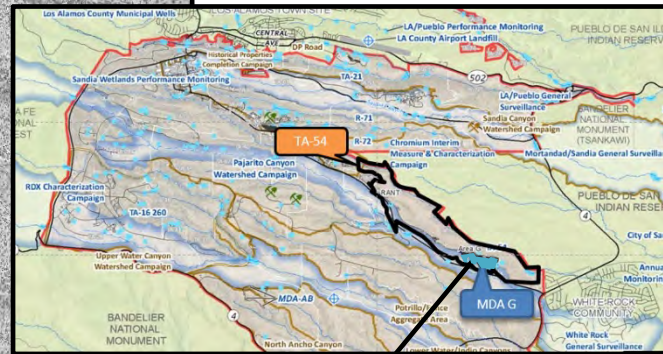


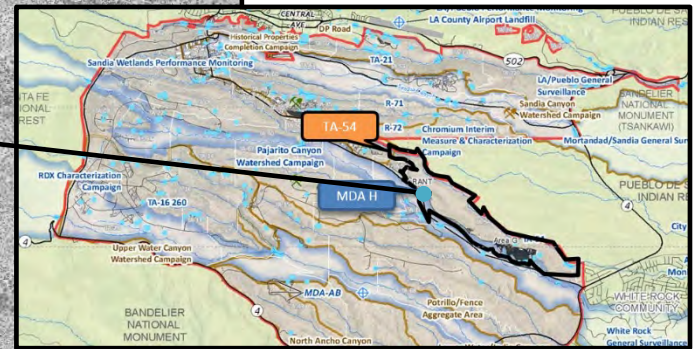
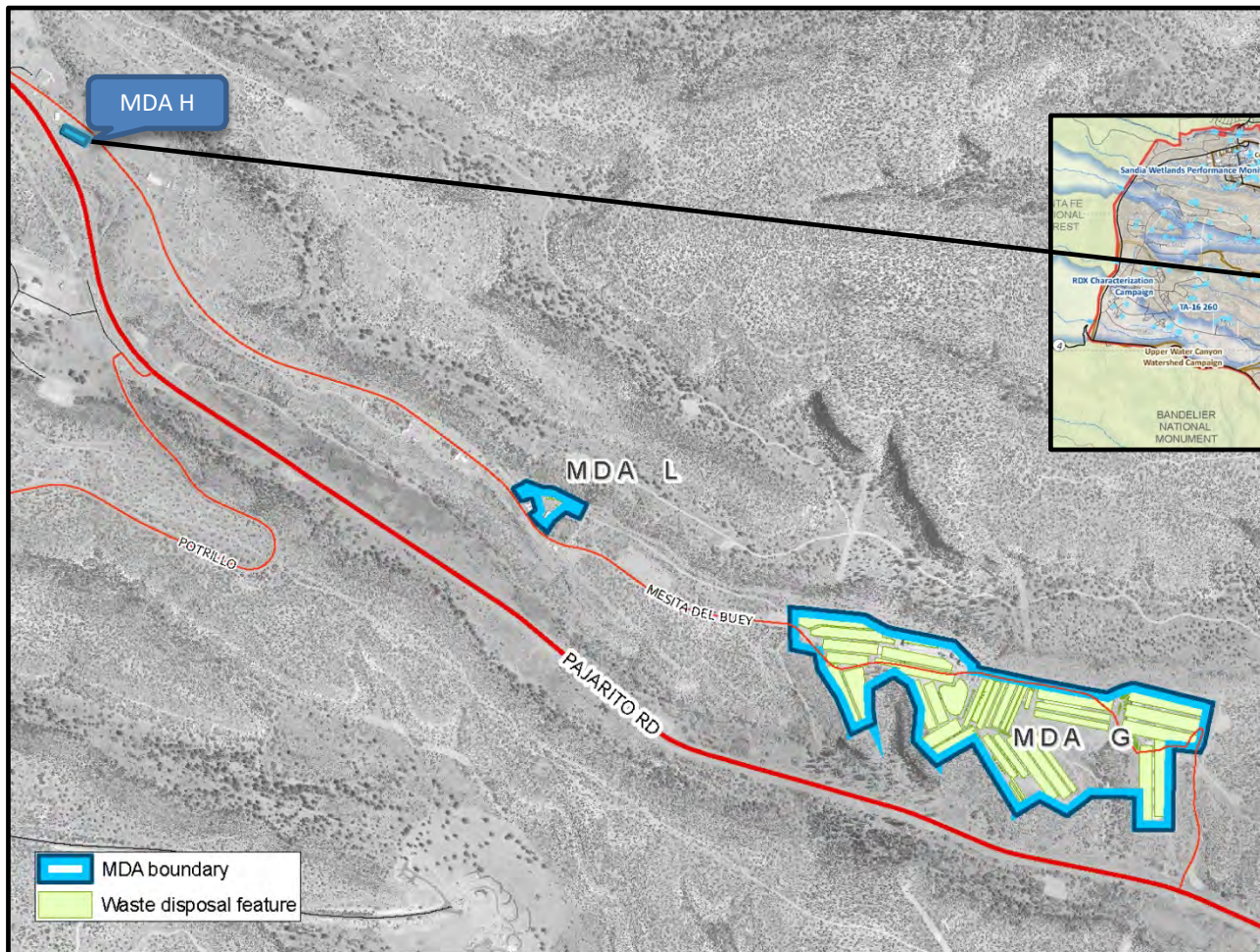


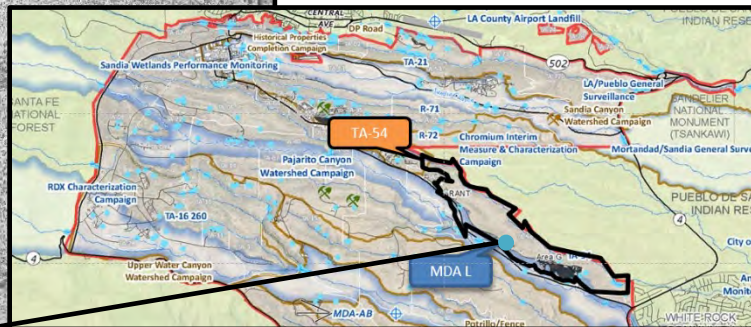
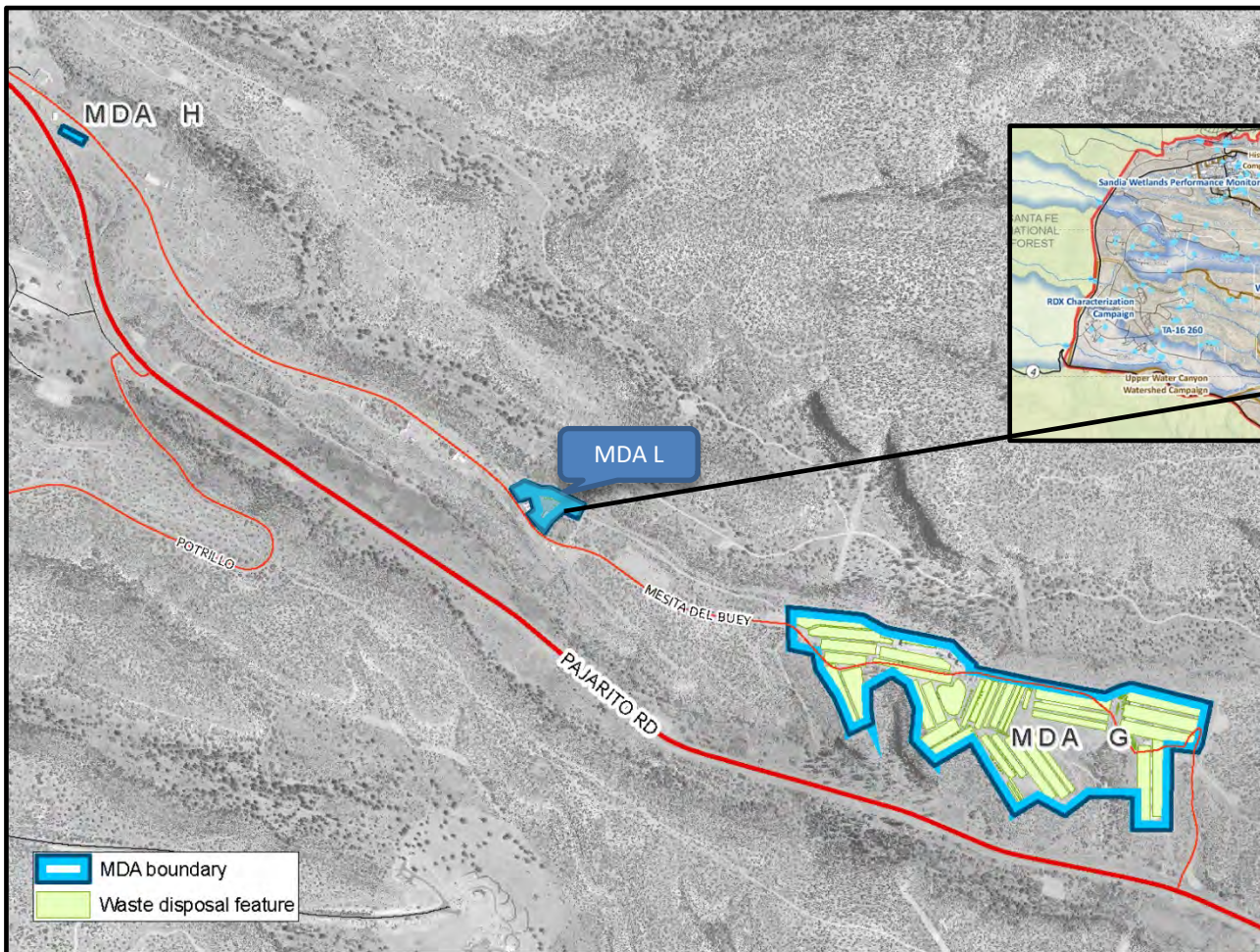


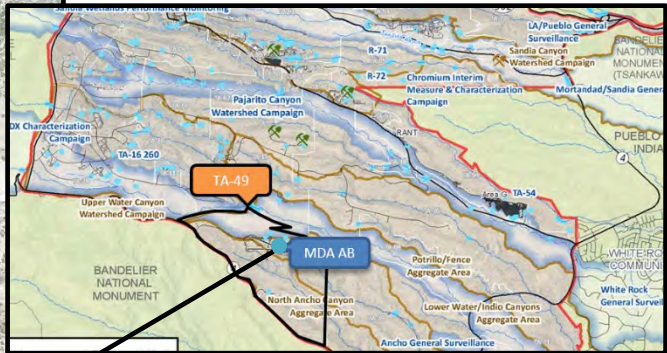
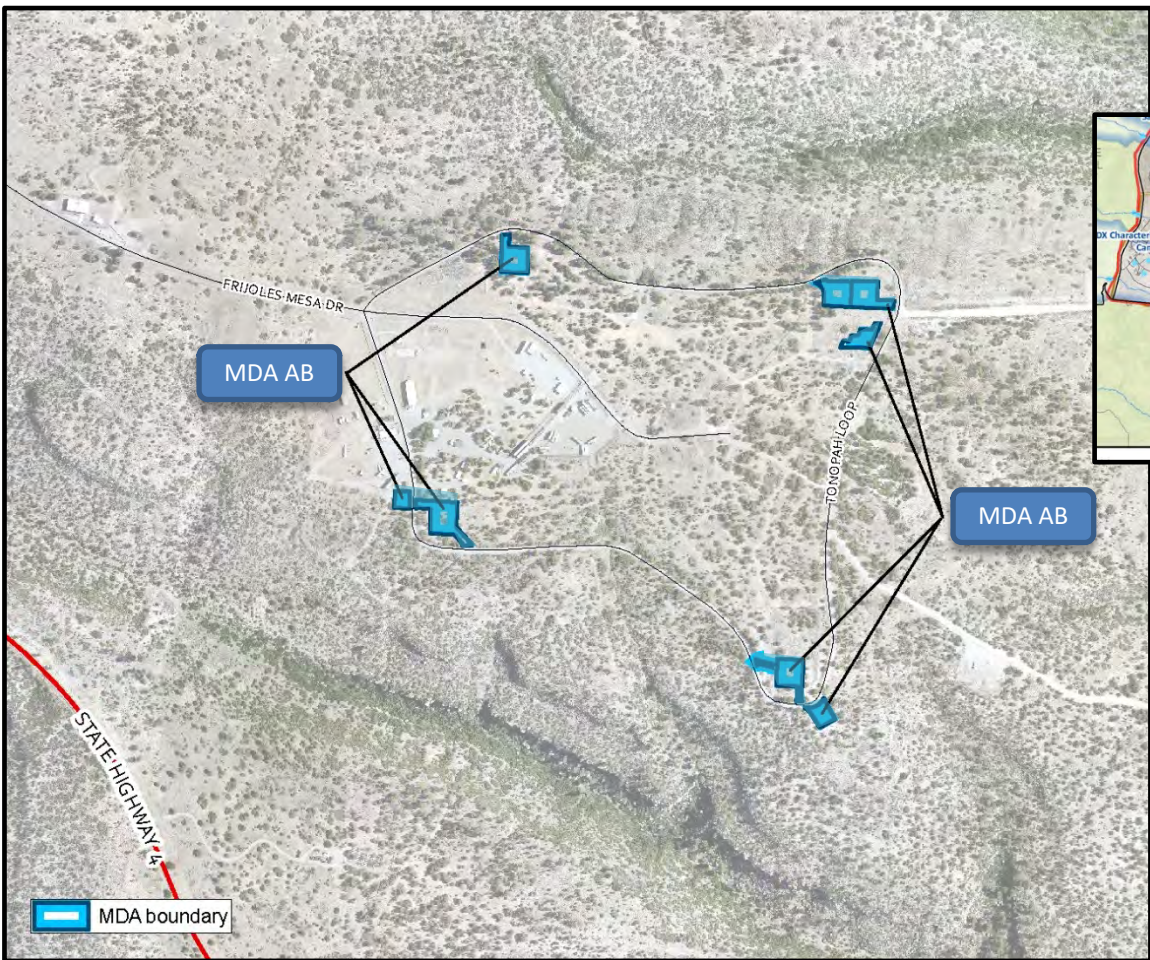
TA-21: MDA T

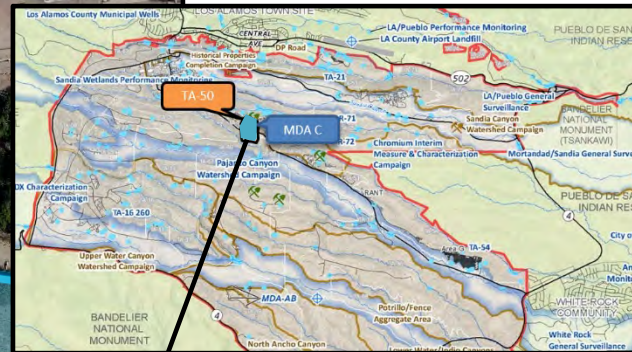
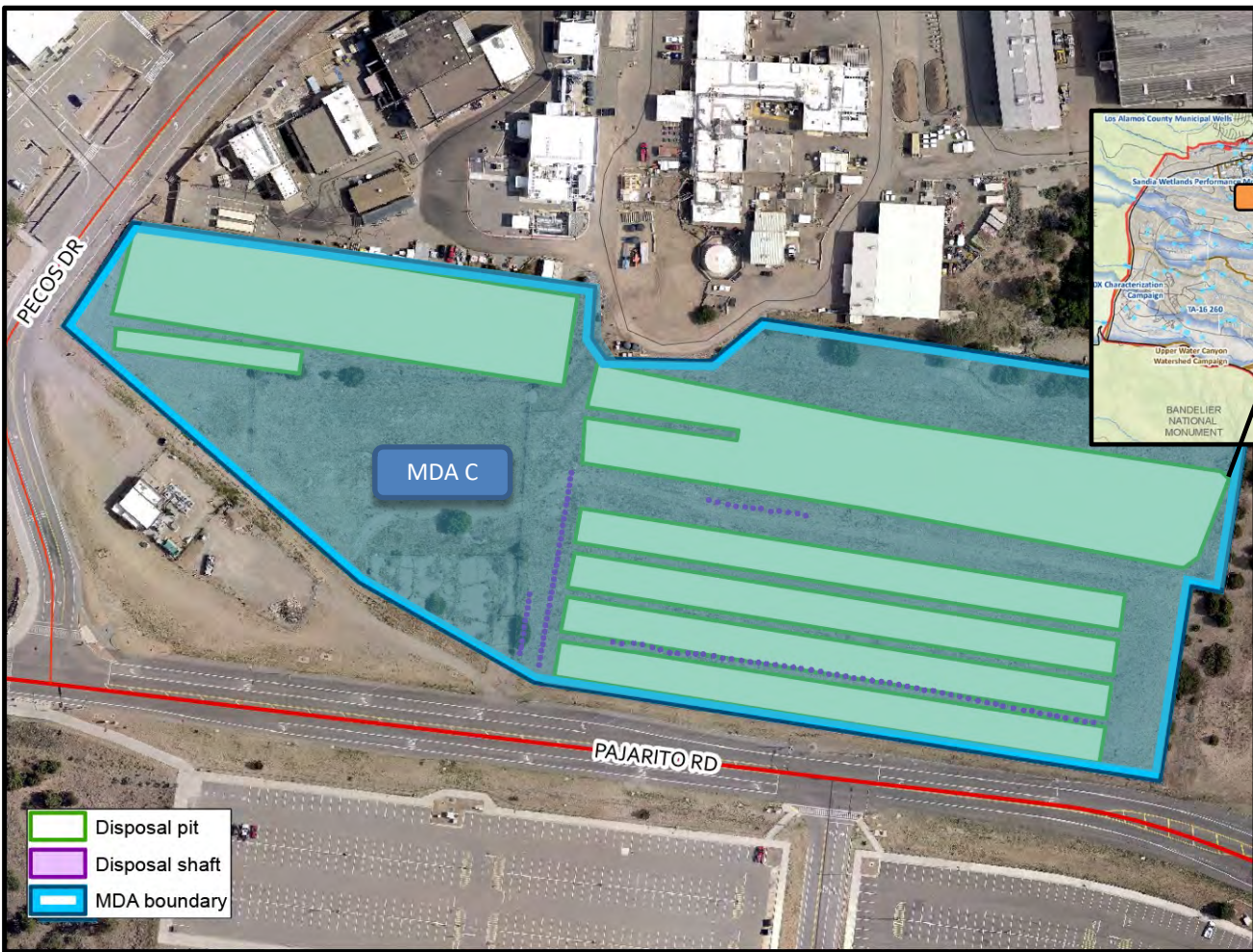












MDA Fact Sheet



- CAMPAIGNS**
The investigation and remediation of Material Disposal Areas (MDAs) is a series of area-based cleanup campaigns.
- LOCATIONS**
On sites throughout the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).
- CAMPAIGNS GOAL**
Continue to protect the public, workers, and the environment.

BACKGROUND

Material Disposal Areas (MDAs) are Cold War-era waste disposal sites. These sites ranged from septic tanks to multi-acre waste burial areas. Burial of wastes in trenches or pits complied with waste disposal standards of the time based on known hazards. LANL originally had 28 material disposal areas, most of which have been characterized, and, where necessary, remediated. This work usually involved digging up the buried waste and shipping it to approved waste disposal facilities. Others did not require remediation.

MARCH 2012 STATUS

- MDA C waste characterization is under way.
- Investigation and remediation of MDA G is underway.
- Remediation of MDA H is under way.

MDA CAMPAIGNS UNDER THE CONSENT ORDER

The Consent Order between the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the United States Department of Energy (DOE) identifies seven MDA that warrant additional investigation and remedial action. The seven MDAs are grouped into Consent Order campaigns: MDA C Remediation, MDA AB Remediation, MDA A & T Remediation, MDA H Remediation and MDA G & L Remediation. All MDAs are designated Solid Waste Management Units under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

MDA C

MDA C, which operated from 1948-1974, is a 1.18-acre site within Technical Area (TA) 50. MDA C contains 115 subsurface disposal units (seven pits and 108 shafts). Wastes include hazardous constituents that are regulated by NMED and radionuclides that are regulated by DOE. Subsurface releases created a volatile organic compound vapor plume in the vadose zone (the area between the surface and underlying groundwater). MDA C is listed under the Consent Order as SWMU 50-009.

MDA AB

MDA AB, which lies near LANL's southern boundary in TA-49, is an underground, former explosive test site composed of three distinct areas, each with a series of deep shafts used for explosive testing. The area is about a half-acre radiological waste disposal site classified as a hazard category 2 nuclear facility due to the radiological inventory in the disposal shafts. The main contaminants are plutonium, uranium, lead and beryllium. MDA AB is listed under the Consent Order as SWMUs 49-001 (a-g).

G & MDA L

MDA L is a low-level waste storage, characterization, and remediation area. The area is 1/2 mile west of White Rock and about one-eighth of a mile from the boundary between TA H, G and L. It is within TA-54.

MDA L is a 0.3-acre site composed of 8 in diameter and 60 feet deep drums, hydride, high-explosives, salts and volatile organic compounds. MDA L is listed under the Consent Order as SWMU 54-004.

DEFINITION: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

A Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) means any discrete unit in which solid waste has been placed at any time and from which the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) determines there may be a risk of leachate of hazardous waste or hazardous waste components. All MDAs are comprised of one or more SWMUs.

MDA G is an inactive waste disposal site. It contains 34 inactive disposal units (pits and shafts) with depths ranging from 4 feet to 8 feet. MDA G is listed under the Consent Order as SWMUs 54-014 (b-d), 54-015 (k), 54-017, 54-024.

MDA H is an inactive waste disposal site. From 1960s until 1985, it is about 2.58 acres and was used to dispose of chemical wastes. When filled, the shafts were covered with concrete about 18 inches deep and vary in diameter from 3 feet to 8 feet. They were used to dispose of chemical wastes. MDA H is listed under the Consent Order as SWMU 54-006 and Area of Concern 54-014 (a).

DEFINITION: HAZARDOUS VERSUS RADIOACTIVE WASTE

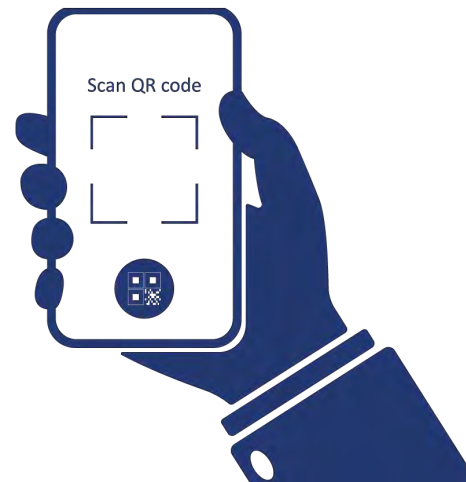
The Consent Order between NMED and DOE defines hazardous waste, including the hazardous waste manifest, waste. The Uniform Code does not apply to radioactive waste.



Waste drums at TA 54

NUCLEAR ENVIRONMENTAL SITE (NES)

NES are below-ground sites containing sufficient quantities and types of radionuclides to warrant categorization as nuclear facilities.



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ER Complexity, Risks and Challenges

ER Projects	Complexity, Risks and Challenges ¹	Status
TA-21 D&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the height of operations, TA-21 contained 125 buildings; the remaining effort at TA-21 includes demolishing Building 21-257 and DP West Slabs, removing IWLs and completing final disposition of the 38 remaining SWMUs/AOCs Challenge: HAZCat 2 nuclear facility and additional safety and security measures are required; for example, the safety analysis, in best case scenario, may take 18 months to fully complete and implement 	In process
Aggregate Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple SWMUs and AOCs are combined into Aggregate Areas, a number of which in turn are managed in Consent Order Campaigns to address area-wide contamination, human health and ecological risk Environmental media affected or potentially affected by releases from SWMUs or AOCs include soil, sediment and surface water and groundwater Challenges include depleted uranium, beryllium, proximity to cultural sites, endangered species, historical munitions and fieldwork within active facility operations areas 	In process
Groundwater (Hexavalent Chromium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plume of dissolved phase hexavalent chromium has been delineated in the regional aquifer beneath Sandia and Mortandad Canyons The regional aquifer is the potable water source for both LANL and Los Alamos County; beneath LANL, it is approximately 5,000 feet thick with the water table approximately 1,000 feet below ground surface The plume is approximately 6,000 feet long by 2,500 feet wide; over most of the length, it is limited to the upper-most 100 feet of the aquifer The current Interim Measures is a combination of extraction, treatment and injection of water to control plume migration and hold it within the LANL boundary; it successfully prevented the plume from crossing the property line onto Pueblo de San Ildefonso land It has not been detected in sentinel wells, and there is no current risk to drinking water wells Challenges: Complex geology and hydrology of the aquifer make it difficult to fully understand contaminant movement, especially at this considerable depth The extreme terrain and abundance of cultural sites predict severely limited potential sites for drilling new wells The Chromium Interim Measures and Characterization Campaign is in progress EM-LA is working with NMED on a strategy to transition to final remedy 	In process



ER Complexity, Risks and Challenges

ER Projects	Complexity, Risks and Challenges ¹	Status
Groundwater (RDX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building 260 at LANL's TA-16 was the machining facility for conventional high explosives; machining water contained RDX and was discharged to the adjacent Cañon de Valle, resulting in the contamination of soils, surface water and groundwater • The endangered species Mexican Spotted Owl has breeding sites in the area for up to six months in the calendar year, which impacts scheduling and timeline of fieldwork • A risk assessment analyzed current and future risk, and determined there is no risk to human health and that long-term groundwater monitoring is protective • The RDX Characterization Campaign is in progress • The RDX Remedy Campaign has not begun 	In process
MDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDAs are Cold War-era waste disposal sites, that totaled 28 MDAs with now seven remaining • They range from septic tanks up to multi-acre waste burial areas • The seven remaining MDAs warrant additional investigation and remedial action: MDA A, MDA T, MDA C, MDA G, MDA L, MDA H and MDA AB • Challenges include lack of reliable inventory documentation (all MDAs), radiological inventories (MDA T), wide range of waste types and configurations (MDAs C and G), vapor plumes (MDAs C, L and G), high explosives (MDA H), HAZCat 2 nuclear facilities (MDA AB) • If NMED selects full excavation as the final remedy for an MDA, truckloads of waste and injuries/accidents increase significantly; for example, full excavation of MDA C (11.8 acres) would result in 41,200, 20-ton truckloads of waste and clean fill and >3 traffic accidents during the project 	In process

1. General or high-level complexities, risks and challenges that apply to all projects include:
 - Worker safety
 - Staffing challenges: clearance (obtaining and maintaining), specialty certifications, SMEs
 - Inventory shortage: SWBs, etc.
 - Equipment: maintenance, scheduling of equipment to be delivered (subcontractors bringing drills could take up to a year to schedule)
 - Unknown or unforeseen events
 - Natural disasters: fires, droughts, etc.
 - Transportation and injuries



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We want your feedback on the remaining scope

Remaining scope includes:

- CH-TRU: Pit 9, Trenches A–D and Shafts waste processing
- ER: TA-21 D&D, Aggregate Areas, Hexavalent chromium, RDX, MDAs

What should be prioritized and why?





Purpose: Develop a long-term strategic vision from the “ground-up” for the remaining legacy cleanup that is based on consensus of values and priorities from stakeholders, pueblos in northern New Mexico and the public

An opportunity to voice your values and priorities as they relate to the remaining cleanup scope

What do we mean by values and priorities?

- Values: Individual beliefs that motivate people to act one way or another
- Priorities: What’s most important to you?
 - Cleanup highest risk sites to people first
 - Cleanup sites that can be transferred/used for economic development
 - Cleanup sites near residents

