

Long-term Environmental Stewardship

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Sandia National Laboratories

Winter 2008 Newsletter

This newsletter is distributed to the community to provide the latest information on Long-term Environmental Stewardship (LTES)/Long-term Stewardship (LTS) environmental activities at Sandia.

What is LTES?

The Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico (SNL/NM) LTES Program involves stewardship activities for past, present and future activities. The LTES program “promotes the long term stewardship of a site’s natural and cultural resources throughout its operational, closure, and post closure life cycle” (Department of Energy Order 450.1, Environmental Protection Program).

The SNL/NM LTES Program is responsible for providing corporate-wide processes for minimizing adverse environmental impacts from Sandia operations, including new, active and legacy sites. These processes will identify and manage cumulative environmental impacts prior to reaching regulatory limits.



What is LTS?

A subcomponent of LTES is the long-term stewardship of legacy waste sites (former Environmental Restoration sites). These LTS sites require additional monitoring and maintenance measures. SNL/NM LTS activities have been increasing as the Environmental Restoration Project comes to a close. Scheduled cleanup of more than 200 Environmental Restoration sites are complete. Long-term monitoring requirements for LTS are currently in development.

What are some LTES activities at SNL/NM?

As part of stewardship activities, the LTES Program is developing a life-cycle model to address environmental impacts early in the planning process, allow for proactive mitigation and/or clean-up at the end of a project, and to prevent the creation of additional environmental restoration sites.

The LTES Program is continuing to grow and improve our ability to better represent concerned citizens. We have created a new website that offers user-friendly access to information on events and projects within the LTES Program. The public can also access fact sheets relating to Sandia’s environmental programs, as well as information on the Community Checklist.



**For more information on Sandia’s
LTES Program, please visit our
website at:**

<http://ltes.sandia.gov>

Sandia's Groundwater Protection Program

Sandia Corporation considers the protection and preservation of the environment and safety and health of its workforce, visitors, and the public to be critical to its success. An essential component of this strategy for success is the protection and preservation of the groundwater resources at SNL/NM through the Groundwater Protection Program (GWPP). These resources are of critical importance because groundwater is the primary source of drinking water to SNL/NM, Kirtland Air Force Base, and the City of Albuquerque.

The potential for releases into the groundwater by Sandia operations is minimized by the establishment of administrative procedures and assessments of adherence to these procedures. Monitoring and groundwater surveillance conducted by the GWPP is used as a proactive indicator for potential contamination. Environmental programs are a critical component for the achievement and improvement of environmental performance and to the overall success of Sandia's Environmental Management System.

The mission of the GWPP is to protect groundwater resources at SNL/NM and the surrounding area by acting in observance with the following:

- Identifying potential sources of contamination,
- Working with line organizations to monitor known contamination and control further spread of contaminants,
- Implementing effective groundwater surveillance to proactively detect contamination,
- Initiating abatement or remedial action where necessary,
- Determining the effects of Sandia operations on groundwater through groundwater quality sampling and water level measurement and analysis,
- Documenting compliance with environmental regulations through monitoring and groundwater surveillance,
- Developing groundwater education and community outreach programs, and
- Providing stakeholders an annual update of groundwater data at Sandia through the Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report.



Sandia hydrogeologist participating in hands-on community education



Sandia field workers conducting groundwater monitoring

LTES Community Checklist

Members of Sandia's workforce met with community members who have an interest in LTES at Sandia in May 2007 to create the Community Checklist. The Community Checklist listed the community members' questions about the LTES at Sandia. These questions were addressed with members of the workforce and the answers were posted to our website in October 2007. The Community Checklist will be updated annually with new concerns or questions the community may have.

Meetings will be held this May. The location and meeting time is currently being determined. To ensure your participation in these meetings, please contact the LTES Program Line at **505.284.9883** to sign up.



A copy of the Community Checklist may be downloaded from our website:
<http://ltes.sandia.gov/>

RCRA Part B Permit Update

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued Draft Hazardous Waste Facility Permit No. NM5890110518 on August 20, 2007 for a 60-day public review and comment period. The comment period was extended three times at the request of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and interested citizens; the final deadline was 5:00 pm February 8, 2008. The draft Permit and related information are available on the NMED website at:

<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/snlperm.html>

The comprehensive 486-page draft Permit includes seven parts and sixteen attachments. It addresses hazardous and mixed waste management operations at ten waste storage and treatment units at SNL/NM. Specific topics include: storing and handling waste in containers, waste treatment operations and equipment, waste analysis and characterization, preventing releases, emergency preparedness and response, worker training, inspections, records, and final decontamination of the facilities.

The draft Permit also establishes requirements for investigation and remediation at any future contaminated sites, and requirements for existing sites that are not addressed through the Compliance Order on Consent between NMED, DOE, and Sandia (April 29, 2004).

The NMED will consider all the comments that were received by the deadline in formulating a final decision, and may modify the draft Permit.

MISSION:

The LTES mission ensures long-term protection of human health and the environment and proactive management toward sustainable use and protection of natural and cultural resources affected by Sandia's operation and operational legacies. This mission will be accomplished by working with the line and support organizations in proactively identifying potential environmental impacts and applying environmental processes and guidance.

Next Event

What: DOE/DoD Semi-Annual Public Meeting
When: April 30, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
Where: Cesar Chavez Community Center
7505 Kathryn SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108

For more information, please contact the LTES Program directly at 505.284.9883.

If you do not wish to receive future LTES newsletters, please contact us at 505.284.9883 or e-mail Katrina Wagner at kmwagne@sandia.gov.

