

Appendix A

Acronyms and Abbreviations and Glossary

A-1.0 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AA	administrative authority
AOC	area of contamination
asl	above sea level
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
bgs	below ground surface
BMP	best management practice
BTEX	benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene
BV	background value
CAM	continuous air monitoring
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COPC	chemical of potential concern
cpm	counts per minute
CWDR	chemical waste disposal request
DDT	4,4'-Dichlorodiphenyltrichlorethane (a pesticide)
DOE	Department of Energy (US)
DOT	Department of Transportation (US)
DP	Delta Prime (name of mesa)
DQO	data quality objective
DSA	documented safety analysis
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (US)
ER	environmental restoration
FID	flame ionization detector
FV	fallout value
GC	gas chromatograph
GPR	ground-penetrating radar
HazCat	hazard characterization
HIR	historical investigation report
HLW	high-level radioactive waste
HSWA	Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984
IDLH	immediate danger to life and health
IDW	investigation-derived waste
IWD	integrated work document
IR	investigation report
LA	Los Alamos (a canyon)
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
LIG	laboratory implementation guideline (LANL)
LIR	laboratory implementation requirement (LANL)
LLW	low-level radioactive waste
MDA	material disposal area
MLLW	mixed low-level radioactive waste
MS	mass spectrometer
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NMSW	New Mexico Special Waste
OSWER	Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

PAH	polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PCE	tetrachloroethene
PCS	petroleum contaminated soil
PID	photoionization detector
PPE	personal protective equipment
QA	quality assurance
QC	quality control
RaLa	radioactive lanthanum
RCFA	Regulatory Compliance Focus Area
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RDX	hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (high explosive)
RFI	RCRA facility investigation
RPF	Records Processing Facility (part of RRES-RS)
RRES-RS	Risk Reduction and Environmental Stewardship–Remediation Services
SAL	screening action level
SAP	sampling and analysis plan
SOP	standard operating procedure
SSHASP	site-specific health and safety plan
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
SWMU	solid waste management unit
TA	technical area
TAL	target analyte list (EPA)
TCA	1,1,1-trichloroethane
TCE	trichloroethene
TCLP	toxicity characteristic leaching procedure
TSDF	treatment storage and disposal facility
TRU	transuranic waste
TSR	technical safety requirements
UHC	underlying hazardous constituent
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	underground storage tank
VOC	volatile organic compound
WAC	waste acceptance criteria
WCSF	Waste Characterization Strategy Form
WP	work plan
WPFs	waste profile forms
XRF	x-ray fluorescence

A-2.0 GLOSSARY

aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) — An above-ground storage tank.

area of contamination (AOC) — The AOC concept provides for areas of contiguous contamination to be designated as a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) “unit” (e.g., a landfill) for the purposes of implementing a remedy.

groundwater — Interstitial water which occurs in saturated earth material and which is capable of entering a well in sufficient amount to be utilized as a water supply.

high sensitive metal detector (EM-61) — EM-61 is a time-domain metal detector that detects both ferrous and non-ferrous metals. A powerful transmitter generates a pulsed primary magnetic field in the earth which induces eddy currents in nearby metallic objects. The eddy current decay produces a secondary magnetic field measured by the receiver coil.

migration — The movement of inorganic and organic species through unsaturated or saturated materials.

operable unit (OU) — At the Laboratory, one of 24 areas originally established for administering the ER Project. Set up as groups of *potential release sites*, the OUs were aggregated based on geographic proximity for the purpose of planning and conducting *RCRA facility assessments* and *RCRA facility investigations*. As the project matured, it became apparent that 24 were too many to allow efficient communication and to ensure consistency in approach. Therefore, in 1994, the 24 OUs were reduced to six administrative “field units.”

outfall — The vent or end of a drain, pipe, sewer, ditch, or other conduit that carries wastewater, sewage, storm runoff or other *effluent* into a stream.

photoionization detector (PID) — A PID is a real-time monitoring instrument used to detect organic vapors in air. Organic vapor concentrations are read in parts per million.

polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) — Any *chemical* substance that is limited to the biphenyl molecule that has been chlorinated to varying degrees or any combination of substances, which contains such substances. PCBs are colorless, odorless compounds that are chemically, electrically, and thermally stable and have proven to be toxic to both humans and animals.

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.

radionuclide — A nuclide (species of atom) that exhibits radioactivity.

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*.

release — Any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, *leaching*, dumping, or disposing of *hazardous waste* or *hazardous constituents* into the environment (including the abandonment or discarding of barrels, containers, and other closed receptacles that contain any *hazardous wastes* or *hazardous constituents*).

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)

sample — A portion of a material (e.g., rock, soil, water, air), which, alone or in combination with other samples, is expected to be representative of the material or area from which it is taken. Samples are typically sent to a laboratory for *analysis* or inspection or are analyzed in the field. When referring to samples of environmental media, the term *field sample* may be used.

sediment — (1) A mass of fragmented inorganic solid that comes from the weathering of rock and is carried or dropped by air, water, gravity, or ice; or a mass that is accumulated by any other natural agent and that forms in layers on the earth's surface such as sand, gravel, silt, mud, fill, or loess. (2) A solid material that is not in solution and either is distributed through the liquid or has settled out of the liquid.

solid waste management unit (SWMU) — Any identifiable site 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 or around a facility at which solid wastes have been routinely and systematically stored, such as waste tanks, septic tanks, firing sites, burn pits, sumps, landfills (material disposal areas), wastewater outfall areas, canyons around the Laboratory, and contaminated areas resulting from leaking product storage tanks (including petroleum).

technical area (TA) — The Laboratory established technical areas as administrative units for all its operations. There are currently 49 active TAs spread over 43 square miles.

terrain conductivity (EM31)— EM31 maps geological variations, groundwater contaminants or any subsurface feature associated with changes in the ground conductivity using a patented electromagnetic inductive technique that makes the measurements without electrodes or ground contact. With this inductive method, surveys can be carried out under most geological conditions including those of high surface resistivity such as sand, gravel and asphalt.

tuff — A compacted deposit of volcanic ash and dust that contains rock and mineral fragments accumulated during an eruption.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) — Federal agency responsible for enforcing environmental laws. While state regulatory agencies may be authorized to administer some of this responsibility, the EPA retains oversight authority to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

volcaniclastic sediments — Pertaining to a clastic rock containing volcanic material transported and deposited by wind.