

**New Mexico Environment  
Department  
Public Meeting  
Investigation/Remediation at  
Material Disposal Area B**

**December 7, 2006**



# Statutory/Regulatory Authority

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): provides for the regulation of hazardous waste (not hazardous materials)
- New Mexico was authorized for the corrective action program in 1996
- March 1, 2005 Order on Consent – “fence-to-fence” cleanup requirements for LANL

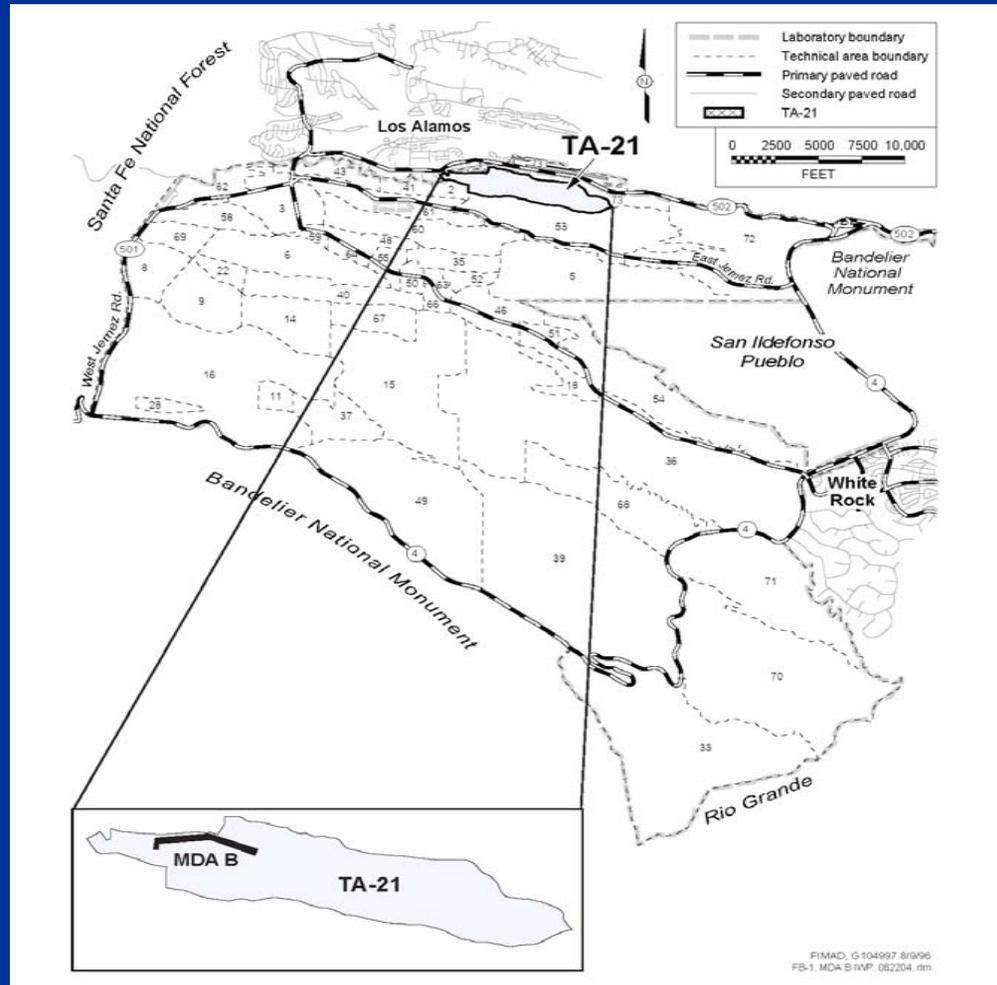


# Material Disposal Area (MDA) B

- Located in Technical Area (TA) 21 on DP Mesa, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
- Approximately 6 acres in size
- A subsurface waste disposal site for DP West and DP East operations
- Dates of Operation: 1945 to 1948

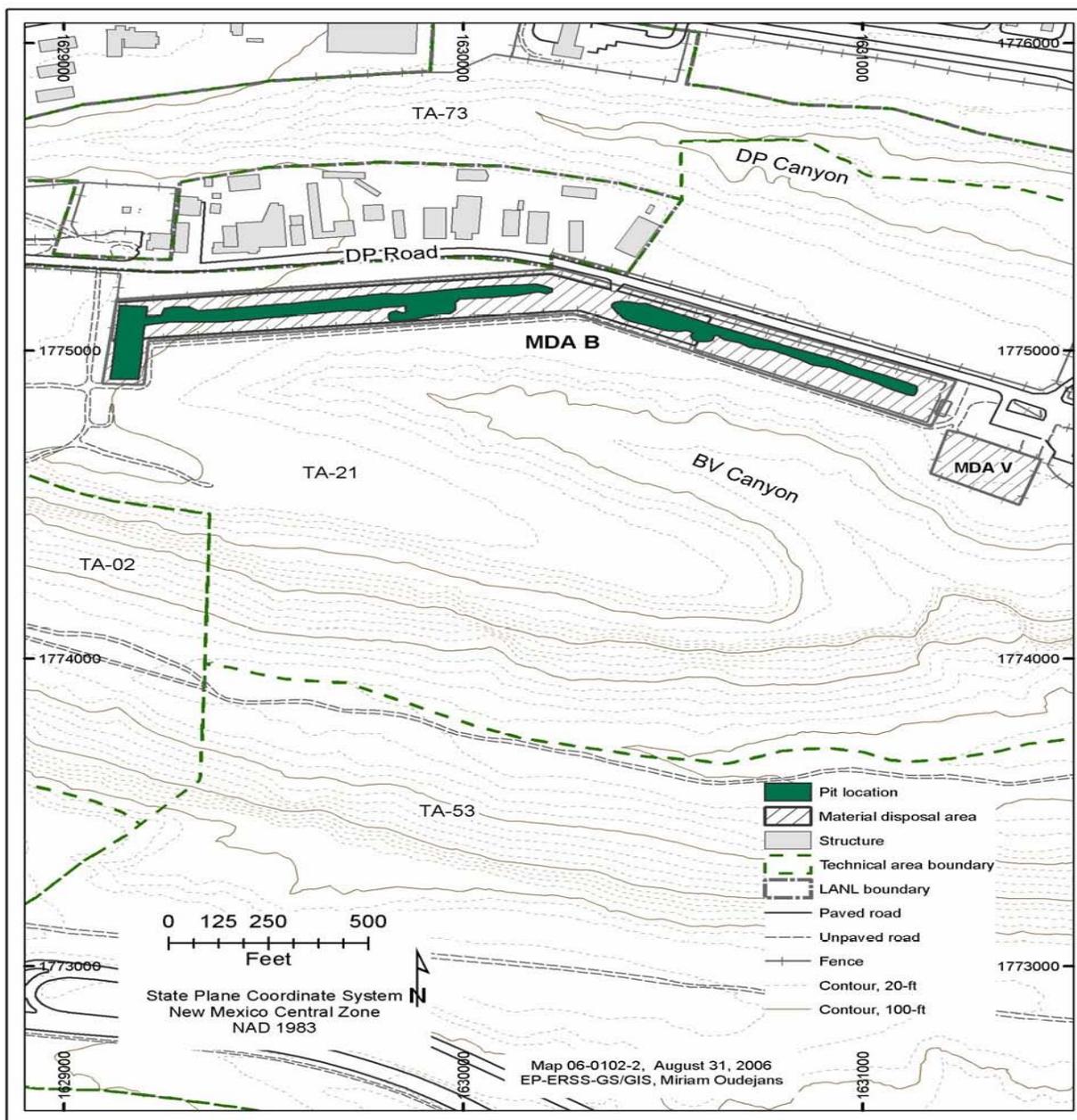


# MDA B



Location Map

# MDA B Site Plan



Not to Scale

# MDA B

- No formal waste inventory was maintained (but broad categories of waste are known)
- Trenches were dug into the Bandelier Tuff
- Bandelier Tuff is a competent rock unit, but prone to fracturing (therefore contaminant transport)



# MDA B

- Perched groundwater is present in wells near MDA B (LADP-3, R-7, and Otowi 4)
- Perched groundwater has not been observed in previous investigations at MDA B
- The regional aquifer is approximately 1,260 feet below ground surface (bgs)
- The nearest drinking water well is Otowi-4 (over 1 mile)



# Previous Investigations

- Several previous investigations at MDA B included surface sampling, vegetation sampling, subsurface sampling, geophysical surveys
- Most recent investigation was in 1998:
  - 7 angled boreholes drilled to investigate possible releases from MDA B
  - Radionuclides, metals, and trace VOCs in pore-gas samples



# Proposed Approach

## Phase 1

- Removal of all buried waste
- Waste will be characterized, segregated, and processed for disposal
- Removal of contaminated soil/tuff to residential New Mexico Soil Screening Levels (SSLs)
- Following waste removal, confirmatory sampling conducted in bottom of trenches and sidewalls



# Proposed Approach (Cont'd)

## Phase 2

- Submittal of proposal to investigate residual contamination, if any
- Proposal will include:
  - results of Phase 1 work
  - proposed investigation boreholes
  - proposed analytical suite and sampling intervals for proposed boreholes
- **The final Report will be submitted following implementation of Phase 2**



# Health & Safety

- All work associated with waste removal will be conducted within an engineered enclosure with negative pressure
- Continuous air monitoring
- Waste shipments will occur 4 times per day in accordance with Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements
- Emergency Response Plan



# Why Complete Removal?

- Source removal is the most protective
- More likely to achieve the required cleanup levels
- Hazards will be contained
- Accelerate cleanup of the site



# Public Involvement

- Public input influences final decisions
- NMED website:  
<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/hwb/lanlperm.html>
- A final decision will be made following the 60-day comment period
- NMED considers and responds to all comments



# Public Involvement

- Submit written or email comments to:  
John E. Kieling, Program Manager  
New Mexico Environment Department -Hazardous  
Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-2500  
email: [john.kieling@state.nm.us](mailto:john.kieling@state.nm.us)  
Reference: LANL MDA B Investigation/Remediation  
Work Plan (SWMU 21-015)
- Public Comment Period ends **January 26, 2007 at 5:00  
PM**



# Public Involvement

For technical questions regarding the proposed work:

Kathryn Chamberlain

Old Phone #: 505-428-2546

New phone #: 505-476-6046

[Kathryn.chamberlain@state.nm.us](mailto:Kathryn.chamberlain@state.nm.us)

