

Environmental Programs

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Date: **NOV 30 2010**
Refer To: EP2010-0535

Timber Ridge Property Owners Association
Ridge Park Luxury Condominiums
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Subject: Upper Los Alamos Canyon Update, November 2010

Dear Residents:

The remediation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) being conducted in the small drainage below Ridge Park and Timber Ridge is complete, with the exception of the outfall area and steep slope leading into the drainage. In these areas, infiltration of PCBs into the subsurface occurred to a greater extent than initially indicated. We have gone through two rounds of removal in these areas, with approximately 1.5 to 2.5 ft of material being removed each time, and residual contamination can still be detected below the 3- to 4-ft depth. A third round of removal has been recommended for the outfall area near the fence between Ridge Park and U.S. Department of Energy property (see photograph). A small excavation currently in that area will be deepened, backfilled, and restored to its original condition. The area below the outfall to the west, on the steep slope into the drainage, has been recommended for stabilization rather than additional removal. We are awaiting concurrence from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on these recommendations.



View of the excavation in the outfall area, looking northeast toward Timber Ridge Condominiums

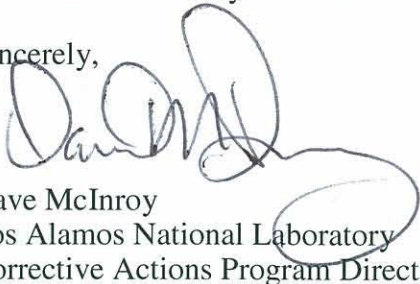
We are hoping to start (and finish) the additional field activities soon, pending NMED approval. Once we are back working in the outfall area, we anticipate completion in 1 to 2 months, depending on weather conditions at the time the work is conducted. Once removal is complete, we will collect final confirmation samples and restore the site. We will keep you posted on the results of our efforts. In the meantime, please note that the trails must remain closed for the safety of all. During a remediation effort, there are significant hazards associated with mechanical equipment as well as changing site conditions (e.g., excavations, tree removal, loose rocks, etc.).

Since the time we started the cleanup a little over a year ago, 2880 cubic yards of contaminated material has been removed from the site, two large stormwater retention structures have been built, and two reports have been submitted to NMED. As a result of this work, we believe the entire drainage below the slope has been successfully cleaned up to meet a recreational land-use scenario.

In the bigger picture, 21 former environmental sites have received certificates of completion from NMED as a result of the Upper Los Alamos Canyon investigation conducted in 2008 and 2009. Five of these sites are located on Timber Ridge and/or Ridge Park property. A Phase II investigation will be conducted beginning in late 2011 to finalize characterization and cleanup of the remaining sites in the Upper Los Alamos Canyon Aggregate Area. The Phase II investigation work plan, which was submitted to NMED in October, proposes a small amount of additional sampling in Ridge Park and no additional sampling in Timber Ridge. We are awaiting concurrence from NMED on the proposed work, which will require property-owner approval to complete.

As always, we thank you for your continued patience as we complete this important work. If you have questions or would like copies of any of the reports or certificates of completion, please feel free to contact Becky Coel-Roback at (505) 699-0297.

Sincerely,



Dave McInroy
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Corrective Actions Program Director

MG/GR/DM/BCR:sm

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