

be the optimal choice. However, for significantly lower costs, a major upgrade of existing facilities, including new construction, will provide improved operational reliability and protection. Consequently, an all new facility at any of the three alternative locations was eliminated due to cost considerations.

From the standpoint of environmental impact from normal operations (including offsite transportation and the risk of an accident-producing release of radioactive materials, there is little difference between existing operations at Pantex and partial relocation to IAAP. However, Pantex Plant Option 2 provided a greater degree of operational reliability and protection than the partial relocation to IAAP option.

The current construction criteria for safety can be attained for all facilities at the Pantex Plant by implementation of Option 2. Therefore, this option is selected as the DOE goal for the Pantex Plant. The implementation of this goal will proceed based on receipt of congressional funding authorizations. In recognition of the fact that aircraft crashes into the Pantex facility pose the predominant threat for a radioactive materials release beyond the plant boundaries, the DOE will continue working with the FAA to divert airways away from the Pantex Plant.

Dated: October 17, 1984.

Approved:

William W. Hoover,

Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs.

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Certification of the Radiological Condition of the Former Site of the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Plant (TA-45) and Effluent Receiving Areas of Acid, Pueblo, and Los Alamos Canyons, Los Alamos, NM

AGENCY: Office of Terminal Waste Disposal and Remedial Action, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Certification.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy has completed radiological surveys of and taken remedial actions to decontaminate the former site of the radioactive liquid waste treatment plant (TA-45), Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico. The site contained low levels of radioactive material deposited during the period when the Laboratory was operated under contract to the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission. The Department, through the Office of

Terminal Waste Disposal and Remedial Action, has issued the following statement:

Statement of Certification: Former Site of the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Plant (TA-45) and Effluent Receiving Areas of Acid, Pueblo, and Los Alamos Canyons

The Office of Terminal Waste Disposal and Remedial Action has reviewed the radiological data obtained following remedial action at the former site of the TA-45 treatment plant and effluent receiving areas, Los Alamos, New Mexico. Based on this review and earlier radiological surveys, the Department of Energy has certified that the former TA-45 plant site and associated areas of Acid, Pueblo, and Los Alamos Canyons are in compliance with all applicable decontamination criteria and standards. This certification of compliance provides assurance that unrestricted use of any of these areas will result in no radiological exposure above applicable criteria and standards to members of the general public or to site occupants. Accordingly, the site is released from the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J.E. Baublitz, Director, Division of Remedial Action Projects, Office of Terminal Waste Disposal and Remedial Action, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20545, (301) 353-5272.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Energy has established a program to characterize and, where necessary, correct the radiological conditions at sites formerly used by the Army Corps of Engineers' Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission during the early years of nuclear research, development, and production. The ultimate objective of the program is to ensure that formerly utilized sites, and any associated properties in their vicinity, can be certified within current radiological guidelines and applicable standards established to protect the general public. The former site of the radioactive liquid waste treatment plant (TA-45) and the natural drainage areas of Acid, Pueblo, and Los Alamos Canyons that received radioactive liquid effluents are two of these sites.

Acid Canyon served as the discharge area for radioactive liquid wastes resulting from research and processing operations associated with nuclear weapons development at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Beginning in late 1943 or early 1944, untreated wastes were discharged to Acid

Canyon, which drains into Pueblo Canyon, then into Los Alamos Canyon, and finally to the Rio Grande. From June 1951 until May 1964, a treatment plant known as TA-45 processed varying fractions of the liquid waste being produced before discharge to the canyons, removing plutonium and other radionuclides. Discharges to Acid Canyon were discontinued in June 1964. TA-45 was dismantled in late 1966 and decontamination work in Acid Canyon continued until June 1967, when these areas were deemed sufficiently free of contamination for unrestricted use.

In 1976, the Energy Research and Development Administration identified the Acid/Pueblo Canyon site as one of the locations to be re-evaluated under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. Soil samples taken by Los Alamos National Laboratory during a survey in 1976-1977 indicated that two small areas were contaminated with plutonium to unacceptable levels: near the former site of a vehicle decontamination facility and at the outfall of the untreated waste lines. Excavation and disposal of contaminated material was completed in September 1982. Based on the results of soil samples taken at the completion of the remedial action, the Director of the Office of Terminal Waste Disposal and Remedial Action certified that radiological conditions at the site are now consistent with the criteria established for the remedial action and that unrestricted use presents no radiological hazards to the general public or to site occupants. Accordingly, the site is released from the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

These findings are supported by the Department of Energy "Certification Docket for the Former Site of the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Plant (TA-45) and the Effluent Receiving Areas of Acid, Pueblo and Los Alamos Canyons, Los Alamos, New Mexico." The dockets will be available for review between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), in the Department of Energy Public Document Room located in Room 1E-190 of the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C.

Dated: August 28, 1984.

F.E. Coffman,

Director, Office of Terminal Waste Disposal and Remedial Action.

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