

Records of Decision for Operable Units 5 and 3, respectively.

- Continued access controls and maintenance and monitoring of the stored wastes inventories.
- Institutional controls of the Operable Unit 4 area such as deed and land use restrictions.
- Potential additional treatment of stored Operable Unit 4 soil and debris using Operable Unit 3 and 5 waste treatment systems.
- Pumping and treatment as required of any contaminated perched groundwater encountered during remedial activities.
- Disposal of Operable Unit 4 contaminated debris and soils consistent with the Records of Decision for Operable Units 3 and 5, respectively.

The remedy specifies off-site disposal of vitrified contents of Silos 1, 2 and 3 at the NTS. At the time of the signing of this ROD, The Department of Energy—Nevada Operations Office (DOE—NV) is in the process of preparing a site-wide environmental impact statement (EIS) under NEPA for the NTS. Shipments of Operable Unit 4 vitrified waste are not proposed to begin until after the planned completion of the EIS for the NTS.

The planned date of completion of the EIS for the NTS is December 1995, at which time a Record of Decision is expected to be issued. Shipments of low-level waste generated from the remediation of Operable Unit 4 are not proposed to begin until mid-1997, which should be after the planned completion of the NTS site-wide EIS. Given these timeframes, DOE does not anticipate the NTS EIS schedule will negatively impact the Operable Unit 4 remediation schedule discussed in the ROD.

The containerized vitrified product will require interim storage at the FEMP prior to its transportation to the NTS for disposal. The purpose of this interim storage is two-fold; first, the vitrified product will require verification sampling in order to certify that each production lot has met specific performance and waste disposal criteria; and second, to provide the Fernald waste shipping program a buffer staging area where the material can be safely managed prior to its shipment to NTS in accordance with DOE as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) principles, ARARs identified and included in the Operable Unit 4 ROD, as well as in a manner protective of human health and the environment. It has been anticipated that the interim storage area will be needed to accommodate the interim handling of

approximately 90 days of vitrification production.

The decision regarding the final disposition of the remaining Operable Unit 4 contaminated soil and debris will be placed in abeyance, until completion of the Records of Decision for Operable Units 3 and 5 remedial actions, in order to take full advantage of planned and in progress waste minimization treatment processes by these operable units. Further, this strategy enables the integration of disposal decisions for contaminated soils and debris on a site-wide basis.

In the unlikely event unforeseen circumstances preclude the integration of Operable Unit 4 soil and debris into the Operable Unit 3 and/or Operable Unit 5 treatment and disposal decisions, the disposal decision for Operable Unit 4 contaminated soils and debris will be documented in a ROD amendment for Operable Unit 4 in accordance with Section 117(c) of CERCLA and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance. The ROD amendment will provide the public and the EPA further opportunity to review and comment on the final disposal option for Operable Unit 4 soils and debris. A ROD amendment to the Operable Unit 4 ROD will not be necessary in the event the Operable Unit 3 remedy for debris and the Operable Unit 5 remedy for contaminated soils can be feasibly implemented for Operable Unit 4.

In reaching the decision to implement this remedial alternative, DOE evaluated other alternatives for each subunit, in addition to no action. The other alternatives are: (a) Subunit A—Silos 1 and 2 Contents: (1) Removal, Cement Stabilization, Off-Site Disposal at Nevada Test Site; (b) Subunit B—Silo 3 Contents: (1) Removal, Vitrification, On-Property Disposal; (2) Removal, Cement Stabilization, On-Property Disposal; (3) Removal, Cement Stabilization, Off-Site Disposal at Nevada Test Site; (c) Subunit C—Silos 1, 2, 3, and 4 Structures, Soils, and Debris: (1) Demolition, Removal, Off-Site Disposal at Nevada Test Site; (2) Demolition, Removal, Off-Site Disposal at Permitted Commercial Facility.

A description of the alternatives is provided in the Decision Summary of the ROD, hereby incorporated by reference for DOE's NEPA ROD, and is available in the Administrative Record. CERCLA's nine criteria set forth in 40 CFR Part 300, the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan were used to evaluate the alternatives. The selected remedy represents the best balance among the alternatives with respect to these criteria

and is the environmentally preferable alternative.

The preferred alternative for Operable Unit 4 provides the best performance when compared with the other alternatives, with respect to the evaluation criteria. This remedy will achieve substantial risk reduction by removing the sources of contamination, treating the material which poses the highest risk, shipping the treated residues off-site for disposal, managing the remaining contaminated soils and debris consistent with the site-wide strategy. The selected treatment alternative both reduces the mobility of the hazardous constituents and results in significant reduction in the volume of materials requiring disposal. The selected remedy also provides the highest degree of long-term protectiveness for human health and the environment.

#### Statutory Determinations

The selected remedy is protective of human health and the environment, complies with Federal and State requirements that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate to the remedial action, and is cost effective. This remedy utilizes permanent solutions and alternative treatment (or resource recovery) technologies to the maximum extent practicable, and satisfies the statutory preference for remedies that employ treatment, and also reduce toxicity, mobility, or volume as a principal element. This remedy will result in contaminated debris and soil being dispositioned by Operable Units 3 and 5, respectively. Because this remedy will result in hazardous substances (i.e., contaminated soil and debris) remaining on site, above health-based levels, a review will be conducted every five years after commencement of remedial action to ensure that the remedy continues to provide adequate protection of human health and the environment.

All practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from implementation of the selected remedy have been adopted. During excavation activities, sediment controls will be implemented to eliminate potential surface water runoff and sediment deposition to Paddys Run. Final site layout and design will include all practicable means (e.g., sound engineering practices and proper construction practices) to minimize environmental impacts.

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