



Environmental Restoration, Water Resources, and Drilling/Borehole Instrumentation

In FY99, LANL and the DOE engaged in a strategic road-mapping analysis of the Environmental Restoration (ER) Project, which resulted in a fundamental shift from the characterization of over 2100 potential release sites (PRS) to examination of watersheds (and the PRSs they contain). Importantly, this strategy includes a holistic approach to characterization, in which the nature and extent of contamination (and contaminant migration) are assessed over large portions of watersheds (aggregates), rather than being assessed independently at each PRS. To formally implement this strategic path, we replanned our master schedule, incorporating new technical approaches and directions.

In keeping our strategy of early and proactive interactions with the administrative authority, the UC/LANL, DOE, and the New Mexico Environment Department are developing remediation strategies for complex sites, and several teams have been formed. These teams include Material Disposal Areas High Performing Team, Airport Land-Transfer Team, High Explosives 260 Outfall Corrective Measure Study Team, TA-35 Integrated Sampling and Analysis Plan Team, and the Ecological Risk Team.

We are also developing tools to model contaminant migration, and we have enhanced many of them in conjunction with our support of the Cerro Grande fire recovery. In its FY 2000 Appendix-F review of the Laboratory, UC gave ER a rating of Outstanding.

The project descriptions that follow detail more specific EES contributions to the LANL ER Project, ER at Hanford, and ER at the Nevada Test Site.

