

Binder 6

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HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Problem Summary

- o Approximately 5.3 million pounds/year of industrial hazardous waste are produced within the Albuquerque Metropolitan area. Approximately 25% of this waste (1.3 million pounds/year) is disposed of improperly and/or illegally through the sanitary landfill, the sewer systems, or through indiscriminate dumping in arroyos, ditches, and open spaces.
- o Approximately 1.6 million pounds of hazardous waste are being produced annually by households within the City, and 90%, or 1.4 million pounds of this waste, are being disposed of improperly in the local landfill, the sewer systems, or open spaces.
- o The lack of proper hazardous waste management facilities in the local area is a serious problem which encourages and perpetuates illegal and indiscriminate hazardous waste disposal. The cumulative effects of this type of disposal can lead to the contamination by chemicals of our aquifer, upon which we are totally dependent for drinking water.

Current Activities

- o Continue efforts to develop public awareness of the need for long-range management strategies, including permanent hazardous waste management facilities.
- o Continue the Hazardous Waste Management Advisory Committee, consisting of 25 involved community representatives, and chaired by the Environmental Services Division Manager.
- o Contract for and manage the Hazardous Waste Management Facility Feasibility Study in cooperation with the State Legislature's Radioactive Materials Committee.
- o Continue the EPA-funded technical assistance program to small quantity generators of hazardous waste.

Needed Improvement

- o Improve the management of City-generated hazardous waste by institutionalizing the handling, transportation, and disposal of this special waste.

Additional Programs to be Considered

- o Provide hazardous materials/hazardous waste safety training for targeted City employees.
- o Evaluate the community's infectious hospital waste problem and current management practices, then develop potential solutions.
- o Assume responsibility for operating the newly installed methane and lysimeter monitoring network installed at the old Yale landfill by the Aviation Department.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Problem Summary

- o Contamination of groundwater has been found within the valley areas of Albuquerque, in particular. This poses serious potential problems in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area where water supply systems obtain their supply solely from groundwater sources. The City's San Jose #6 well was shut down in 1980 when it was found to be contaminated with several organic compounds, some carcinogenic.
- o Groundwater pollution within the Albuquerque area could go undetected, since comprehensive monitoring of the aquifer is not being done. The contaminants of greatest long-term concern should be monitored. Nearly every known instance of groundwater contamination has been discovered only after a drinking water source was affected.

Current Activities

- o Continue to manage the contract for the design and installation of a groundwater quality monitoring network around the old Los Angeles landfill and monitor the Yale landfill groundwater quality monitoring wells.
- o Continue to pursue funding to complete installation of the Los Angeles landfill groundwater quality monitoring network.
- o Continue to coordinate the Middle Rio Grande Aquifer Water Quality Steering Committee to provide a forum for information exchange.

Needed Improvement

- o Computerize existing water quality data, statistically analyze it, and summarize results.

Additional Programs to be Considered

- o With groundwater geochemist, and in coordination with other agencies, design, install and operate a regional water quality monitoring network to look at organic contaminants and other unregulated parameters of public health significance.
- o Develop an area-wide regulatory program addressing underground storage tanks used to store chemicals and petroleum products.
- o Develop and manage an underground storage tank control program for City departments.
- o Develop an area-wide regulatory program governing abandoned wells.
- o Obtain needed equipment to sample groundwater quality monitoring wells and establish routine monitoring program.

WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION

Problem Summary

- o A number of small public and private water supply systems exist in areas of the City not served by the City's municipal system, and these require continual surveillance to assure that they meet minimum standards of construction, water quality, and systems reliability.
- o Owners of private water supplies need technical assistance to achieve and maintain adequately protected systems and to assure that their systems do not threaten the City's municipal system through cross connections.

Current Activities

- o Enforce the State's Water Supply Regulations as they apply to public water systems in the City (excluding the City's municipal system which is regulated by the State).

Needed Improvement

- o Elimination of cross-connections between private water supplies and the City's municipal system.

ON-SITE LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL REGULATION

Problem Summary

- o Individual on-site liquid waste disposal systems which are not properly designed, installed, operated, or maintained can create the potential for drinking water sources to become contaminated. Since liquid waste is composed in part of fecal discharge, such wastes harbor disease organisms which can cause illness upon contact with drinking water.
- o Faulty systems can cause the liquid waste to flow onto the ground, causing unpleasant odors and the potential for contact by humans, animals, and insects, with a resultant high potential for enteric disease, especially in children.
- o Under certain circumstances, liquid waste can cause high nutrient buildup in surrounding soils and groundwater.
- o Excessive nitrates in drinking water produce Methemoglobinemia ("blue baby syndrom") in infants.

Current Activities

- o Continue to assure that on-site liquid waste disposal systems within the City present no hazard to public health or the environment.
- o Continue to work closely with City's Plumbing Inspectors to assure coordination of program, consultation, and enforcement activities.

Needed Improvement

- o Provision of information to installers and owners of on-site liquid waste disposal systems regarding proper installation and maintenance.
- o Review development proposals to ensure that liquid waste will be properly managed.

PLAGUE SURVEILLANCE

Problem Summary

- o Plague, usually transmitted by flea bites, presents a potential health (disease, disability, and death) threat to a significant percentage of the 444,330 citizens of Metropolitan Albuquerque on at least one-half of the 1,170 square mile area.

Current Activities

- o Maintain an active on-going plague surveillance program involving rodents and their fleas, and carnivores in target plague endemic areas.
- o Conduct interdictive flea control when circumstances dictate.
- o Continue to conduct an active public education program, both one-on-one and through the media.

Needed Improvement

- o More active public education, surveillance, and control in less densely populated areas of Bernalillo County, such as the south NM-14 area.

Additional Programs to be Considered

- o Investigate use of selected toxicants (particularly Quintox) for control of rock squirrels, as a measure to provide longer lasting protection to the public.
- o Investigate feasibility of using longer residual insecticides for flea control in burrows - again as a measure to provide longer-lasting protection to the public.

INSECT CONTROL

Problem Summary

- o Mosquitos pose a potential health and nuisance problem to 444,330 citizens of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. The problem arises from the approximately 12,800 potential mosquito-producing acres along the Rio Grande and some 300-400 artificial basins in the City, and the potential for an encephalitis outbreak.

- o Flies pose a potential health and nuisance problem to all citizens over the 1,170 square miles of Bernalillo County from such problems as improper garbage disposal, animal wastes, commercial lift bins, and agricultural wastes. Flies carry various intestinal diseases which pose a health threat to visitors and residents alike.
- o Mosquitos pose a potential health problem to pets from diseases such as dog heart worm, which was virtually unknown in this area just a few years ago.

Current Activities

- o Conduct an aggressive on-going insect control program through source identification and reduction, and larval and adult control through use of biological and chemical control agents.
- o Acquisition of needed equipment to enable continuation of a progressive area-wide insect control program.

Needed Improvement

- o Further insecticide resistance studies to ensure that currently used compounds are efficacious.
- o Further investigation into the use of newer, more selective compounds, in order to reduce the use of broad spectrum insecticides.

RODENT CONTROL

Problem Summary

- o The presence of domestic rats in the North and South Valleys of Albuquerque produces discomfort, nuisance, and economic loss to citizens. The potential for the spread of plague exists in the rat population due to its close proximity to the wild rodent population which serves as a reservoir for this disease.

Current Activities

- o Identification and reduction of rodent harborage.
- o Direct application of rodenticides in select target areas where environmental management approaches have been instituted.
- o Public education, both one-on-one and through select media.

Needed Improvement

- o Promotion of basic premise sanitation, particularly in Bernalillo County.
- o Expand public education effort in select target areas.

Additional Program to be Considered

- o Rodenticide resistance studies in commensal rodents from select problem areas.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Problem Summary

- o Irresponsible pet owners are the major cause of the animal problems in Albuquerque.
- o Over 26,000 animals are impounded annually, 53% being brought in by their owners, and the remaining 47% are picked up as strays by our Animal Control Officers.
- o Stray animals are a significant source of the nearly 10,000 citizen complaints that our field staff investigates, including an additional 1,600 bite cases per year.
- o Stray animals can cause damage to private property, cause annoyances, and injury to the public.
- o Irresponsible pet owners are usually the cause of neglect and abuse of animals.
- o The large unwanted animal population, which is boarded at the Animal Control Center, costs the city considerable monies for board and veterinary care.

As Albuquerque's human population continues to grow, so will the Animal population and the resultant problems.

Current Activities

- o Public education programs to promote responsible pet ownership and sterilization.
- o Public education programs in the Albuquerque public schools and various media presentations of a public education nature used to increase public awareness for voluntary compliance.
- o Public education on pet sterilization, adoption programs, and reclaim procedures.
- o Enforce the Animal Control Ordinances through field programs, which patrol Albuquerque and gain compliance.
- o Investigate all complaints through present field programs.
- o Adoption programs, euthanasia of unwanted pets, and sale of animals to other local agencies.

Additional Programs to be Considered

- o Public education programs could be increased. Increased funding would be used for various media presentations.
- o Increase public education funding to allow better dissemination of information to the public on adoption programs. Possible increase in PR programs offered by CCAT to allow city departments to tape shows or ads for commercial stations. Example -- film of current animal population at the Center with information regarding hours of service and adoption costs. This public service would be updated weekly.
- o Increase field enforcement coverage. Present field staff is adequate, but not at proper levels to handle the increase in areas of recent city annexation.
- o Revise the Animal Control Ordinances to submit to City Council making the ordinances clearer and more easily understood by the public.
- o Improve licensing program to make it more effective.
- o Computerize and mail out license forms to animal owners for their convenience.
- o Sell licenses solely at city facilities to increase sales and accountability.
- o Improve licensing program would generate increased funds to help run Animal Control programs.
- o Increase public education on new licensing program.
- o The development of a westside center for Albuquerque would increase service to westside city residents and allow easier access for animal adoptions and reclaims.

AIR QUALITY

Problem Summary

- o The Albuquerque area occasionally experiences low-level exceedances of carbon monoxide and particulate emissions and is observing the degradation of its crystal clear visibility. Every citizen who resides or works within the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Metropolitan Area must recognize that he/she is a part of the air quality problem and is the key to its solution. Special emphasis must be given to air quality effects of land use planning, development of alternative transportation systems, and the effect of residential woodburning, diesels, and other particulate emissions on visibility degradation.

Current Activities

- o Source surveillance and enforcement.
- o Regulation enforcement of open burning, visible emissions, incinerators, air borne particulate matter, top soil disturbance, and volatile organic compounds.
- o Testing of unleaded gas for lead content.
- o Response to citizen complaints.
- o Education on minimizing dust from construction and development projects.
- o Operation of "State of the Art" air monitoring system.
- o Perform quality assurance audits as per Quality Assurance Plan.
- o Operation of Pollution Signal Candle.
- o Operation "SMOG" call-in phone.
- o Operation of Winter Pollution Advisory call-in phone during winter pollution season (Nov. 1 to Jan. 31).
- o Perform pollen count during spring and summer.
- o Tabulate the Pollution Standards Index (PSI) each working day.
- o Conduct special monitoring as requested.
- o Reduce and tabulate air monitoring data.
- o Respond to requests on Indoor Air Pollution.
- o Review and approve applications for construction or modification of stationary air pollution sources.
- o Perform detail source surveillance and technical enforcement on major stationary air pollution sources.
- o Gather and reduce raw data for emissions inventory, data compliance system.
- o Review, approve, and monitor asbestos abatement projects as per NESHAP regulation.
- o Regulatory evaluation and development.
- o Assist in program evaluation and development.

- o Assist with special projects.
- o Analyze effects of community growth on current and future air quality.
- o Respond to or provide information to planning agencies, committees, and groups on effects of air quality by growth.
- o Compile data produced by air monitoring, engineering, and compliance activities.
- o Produce emissions inventory.
- o Develop data reporting and data handling methods.
- o Develop/analyze weather information and meteorological trends.
- o Perform specialized air pollution modeling as requested.

Needed Improvement

- o Improve effectiveness of dust control from construction and development through changes in City's development policies and regulations.
- o Develop an adequate in-house electronic repair capability and facilities.
- o Update air monitor siting criteria and expansion plan.
- o Improve compliance of stationary sources with regulations.
- o Develop existing air quality regulations and revise as necessary.
- o Improve analysis of air quality trends through computerization.
- o Develop standard data storage and reporting system.
- o Reactivate data telemetry system.
- o Develop improved method to generate emissions inventory.
- o Obtain additional air pollution models for use by engineering and air quality planning.

Additional Programs to be Considered

- o Obtain citation enforcement authority in the County.
- o Expand monitoring system on Westside, Southeast Heights, South Valley, and North Valley, especially particulate sampling and carbon monoxide sampling.
- o Expand the inhalable particulate (PM₁₀) monitoring system through metro area.

- o Conduct additional analysis of "Brown Cloud" during spring and fall.
- o Develop a regulatory program to address toxic emissions from stationary sources.
- o Develop a non-regulatory program to provide consultation and testing to citizens on indoor air pollution.
- o Develop regulation establishing emissions standards for new woodburning appliances.
- o Develop program to minimize pollution from existing residential wood-burning.
- o Improve the effectiveness of air quality planning activity to prevent future air quality problems through specific regulatory authority.
- o Develop and install a comprehensive meteorology data system throughout the metro area to gather data on wind speed, direction and temperature.
- o Develop and implement a comprehensive public information program for 1986-87 winter pollution season on wood smoke and carbon monoxide.

FOOD PROTECTION

Problem Summary

- o Approximately 1,900 foodservice establishments representing restaurants, institutions, meat markets, bakeries, processors, warehouses, and bars currently exist within the City of Albuquerque.
- o In addition to the citizens who reside within the City of Albuquerque, a large number of Metropolitan area (Bernalillo County) residents, visitors, and tourists frequently consume food prepared by foodservice establishments that are regulated by the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department.
- o The nation's third largest industry-the food service industry-represents a sector that reports the highest employee turnover. This statistic results in an on-going effort by industry and government to train personnel in food protection activities and programs.

Current Activities

- o Facility evaluation and inspection by Division personnel on a quarterly basis.
- o Continued efforts to develop the highest quality, most technically competent food protection staff.

- o Standardization of environmental health personnel within the Division ensuring equitable and accurate foodservice establishment evaluations city-wide.
- o Continue to provide effective, on-going training to the foodservice industry, including the managers and employees, for the purpose of providing the greatest degree of public protection against adverse effects results from unwholesome, adulterated foods originating in foodservice establishments.
- o Upgrade and certification of Division staff in environmental epidemiology for the purpose of developing staff within this expertise to assist the Department epidemiologist in foodborne disease investigations.
- o Continue delivery of model plan review section activities during the planning, construction, and start-up of all foodservice facilities in line with paralleling ordinance requirement(s).

Additional Programs to be Considered

- o Participation/membership of the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department in the Foodservice Advisory Committee and the Pure Food Task Force as an important communication forum between industry and the regulatory community.
- o Successful completion of coursework/examination of all Division personnel for Certified Public Pesticide Applicator's License through the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.
- o An overall increase in the level of foodservice sanitation.
- o Development of a computer and data processing-generated program designed for the purpose of streamlining current foodservice evaluations, while reducing resource and personnel effort with a combined objective of increasing the overall sanitation level of foodservice facilities.

SWIMMING POOLS

Problem Summary

- o Approximately 425 public and semi-public swimming pools, spas and related facilities are currently evaluated on a quarterly basis by the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department. Growth in the numbers of these facilities, particularly those associated with apartment and recreational/fitness complexes is anticipated. Additionally, increased utilization of existing facilities by the public is anticipated, along with concomitant increase in exposure to environmental health and safety insults.

- o Disease outbreaks associated with the use of swimming pools and spas have been documented. In addition to traditional health and safety issues paramount within this program, potentially serious diseases could potentially result from improperly operated and maintained facilities.

Current Activities

- o Within a prevention mode, the continuation of a model swimming pool and spa plan review and approval section at the design and construction phase.
- o Planning, developing, and implementing an annual pool and spa operator's training seminar conducted by Division personnel.
- o The evaluation and inspection, on a quarterly basis, of all public and semi-public pools, spas, and baths.

Additional Programs to be Considered

- o The training and development of key staff for the purpose of creating an operational and maintenance "in-house" technical expert to assist current field personnel in highly technical, innovative pool and spa programs.
- o Utilization of currently available computer and data processing resources to identify factors, conditions, and situations that would result in a higher level of compliance by the industry without parallel increase(s) in resources.

Needed Improvement

- o To increase the overall level of compliance within the program utilizing current resources and staffing patterns without a parallel increase in the frequency of facility evaluations.

NOISE POLLUTION CONTROL

Problem Summary

- o Current urban activities as well as the growth pattern exhibited by the City of Albuquerque result in deleterious and nuisance-level noise from construction, industry, transportation, and amplified sources. Furthermore, such environmental insults, may result in a short-term uncomfortable environment or long-term adverse health effects.

Current Activities

- o Identification, mitigation, and abatement of specific noise sources utilizing mediation, consultation and court action.
- o On-going comment formulation, cooperation, and planning with inter-departmental agencies, including but not limited to, the Municipal Development Department, the Transportation Department, and the Environmental Planning Commission.

- o Conduct court-mandated compliance evaluations of motor vehicles for noise measurement and assessment.

Additional Programs to be Considered

- o The implementation of an effective and comprehensive noise public information program, including the integration of civic, commercial, governmental and academic groups and neighborhood associations into the process.
- o Verification of noise impact evaluation tools including computer and data processing programs that verify their validity for utilization within the City of Albuquerque.
- o Develop a noise contour map indicative of existing as well as projected transportation and development-generated noise impacts for utilization by industry, governmental, and private entities.

OTHER CONSUMER PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

- o Monthly collection of at least 250 municipal water samples for compliance with the State Water Supply Regulations.
- o Monitoring the City of Albuquerque for violations of the Water Waste Ordinance; abatement and mitigation of wasted water sources.
- o Conduct periodic evaluations of therapeutic massage parlors for compliance with the appropriate ordinance.
- o Monitoring, consultation, and referral of sources of air pollution, including open burning, improper gasoline storage drop tanks, and improper topsoil disturbance.