



## ER Site No. 21: Metal Scrap (Coyote Springs)

ADS: 1334

Operable Unit: Central Coyote Test Area

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### Site History

ER Site 21 is located south of Manzano Base and about 250 feet west of Coyote Springs ([ER Site 62](#), Greystone Manor) at the Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) Defender Challenge training area. ER Site 21 consisted of an empty 55-gallon drum, some scrap metal, and wood debris scattered at the southern edge of a large stand of Ailanthus trees (*Ailanthus altissima*). The site was defined as a 1 acre area centered on the empty 55-gallon drum. No documentation of activities that occurred at this site have been found. Interviews with current and former Sandia National Laboratories / New Mexico (SNL/NM) employees did not disclose any information concerning possible waste management activities at this site.

This area is currently infrequently used by KAFB as a military training and bivouac area. Military training activities in the area include Defender Challenge war games and the KAFB field medic litter-bearing obstacle course. Some of the materials present in the area from the KAFB activities include a wooden grandstand, wood and steel-rod frame supports for trash cans, and wooden pallets scattered on the ground. Several empty drums, corrugated sheet metal scraps, and other debris were scattered on the surface about 100 feet east of ER Site 21. Just north of this scattered debris, inside another Ailanthus stand, a narrow, collapsed, sheet metal and earth-covered shelter was found dug into the south side of the arroyo channel. The shelter and scattered debris were confirmed as part of the Department of Defense (DoD) and KAFB activities at this site.

Historical aerial photographs of ER Site 21 covering the period from 1951 through 1991 show that a farm house with associated outbuildings, corrals, and fences were present in the area until 1967. However, the farm house is not present in a 1971 aerial photograph. The Ailanthus stand is traceable in the photos from 1951 to the present. None of the aerial photographs show any cultural features suggesting that ER Site 21 was ever used as a solid waste management unit (SWMU).

Previous Investigations - ER Site 21 was first listed as a potential release site based on the Comprehensive Environmental Assessment and Response Program (CEARP) interviews in 1985, which noted an old 55-gallon (gal) drum and some partially buried pieces of metal on the ground. None of the persons interviewed during the CEARP investigation recalled a waste disposal site in this area. The regulatory disposition of the SWMU remained uncertain, however, because of a lack of information regarding possible waste generation or disposal activities at the site. Insufficient information also prevented calculating a Hazard Ranking System score for the SWMU.

Subsequent to the CEARP inspection, the Environmental Protection Agency conducted a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Assessment (RFA). The RFA report noted the site was located adjacent to Coyote Springs and contained a few partially buried drums and pieces of metal. The origin, contents, and condition of the debris was described as unknown.

In November 1993, KAFB Explosive Ordnance Disposal conducted a surface unexploded ordnance (UXO)/high explosives (HE) survey at this site that was completed in conjunction with ER Sites [62](#) and [88](#). Expended ordnance collected and removed during this survey included ten smoke grenades, two 40-millimeter white star cartridges, one booby trap simulator, and numerous rifle shells and casings. No UXO or HE was found. The ordnance collected during this survey was probably the remnant of training exercises conducted by KAFB security police or Defender Challenge personnel.

In February 1994, RUST Geotech Inc. conducted a surface gamma radiation survey at the site in conjunction with ER Sites [62](#) and [88](#). No readings above the natural background of 10 to 13 microroentgens per hour were observed.

## Constituents of Concern

None

## Current Hazards

There are no current hazards at this site related to contamination of the surface or subsurface soils. UXO may be present in this area from past activities at the Defender Challenge Course at Coyote Springs.

## Current Status of Work

A No Further Action (NFA) Proposal was submitted to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in October 1994. Additional investigation and sampling was required by the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED). Samples were collected in 1996. The [NFA](#) was resubmitted in September 1997. In March 1999, NMED indicated that the site was accepted for NFA. The NFA was approved by NMED in October 2000 after completing the public review and permit modification process.

## **Future Work Planned**

No additional work is planned.

## **Waste Volume Estimated/Generated**

Approximately 20 cubic yards of scrap metal and wood debris were removed during a Housekeeping VCM in April 1996

**Information for ER Site 21 was last updated Jul 9, 2001.**