

Los Alamos National Laboratory 2002 Pollution Prevention Awards

Los Alamos, New Mexico

Air Burners, LLC Air Curtain Burners Supporting Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project in New Mexico Included in Los Alamos National Laboratory 2002 Pollution Prevention Awards.

Excerpts: Page 4, Section 10 of the Los Alamos National Laboratory 2002 Pollution Prevention Awards, 23 Pages. Original available here:
http://emeso.lanl.gov/eso_projects/p2_awards/02P2awards.pdf

10. Timber Waste Pollution Prevention Program at the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project

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Description of Nomination:

After the Cerro Grande Fire in May 2000, the DOE mandated that LANL mitigate losses from future potential forest fire events. As a result, an ambitious project to thin approximately 1,000 acres of unmanaged forest in and around LANL has been initiated by the FWO-SGRP Group. This project includes cutting defensible space around LANL structures and thinning forested lands. Currently, portions of the forest have densities in excess of 1500 trees per acre. A healthy, sustainable forest density for northern New Mexico is determined to be 50-150 trees per acre. Using conservative estimation, the LANL-wide defensible space and thinning activities will produce approximately 250,000 ton (1.19 million cubic yards) of gross harvested materials. Historically, harvested materials were inefficiently disposed of in open burns, yielding large volumes of residual ash and unburned remnants, and emitting clouds of smoke and entrained ash.

The CGRP used a number of measures designed to specifically reduce the volume of ash, debris, and smoke; and at the same time enhance regional economic partnerships and provide timber and firewood to northern New Mexico. The first measure is to segregate the timber waste into three categories: salvageable timber, slash (limbs and branches) and firewood. The salvageable timber is made available to local mills for construction lumber. The firewood is cut into fireplace sized segments and given away to the public. The slash is either mulched or burned by Air Curtain Destructors (ACD), a newly acquired technology. ACD units use a high-volume curtain of forced air to super heat the materials and contain the smoke and ash until burned down to approximately 2 percent of the original volume of material. It is estimated that these fully implemented measures reduce the gross volume of timber waste by greater than 75 percent and reduce emissions from burning timber waste by 65 to 75 percent.