



GABYE JOHNSON GOVERNOR

TO: Terri Davis
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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
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ENTERED

MARK E. WEIDLER SECRETARY

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June 14, 1995

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To Pat Longmire From D. McQuillan
Co. LANL Co. NMED
Dept. Phone # 827-2831
Fax # 665-9118 Fax #

Pat Longmire, Ph.D.
CST Group 7
Mail Stop J534
Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM 87545

Dear Dr. Longmire:

This will confirm our telephone conversation regarding perched ground-water systems in the Los Alamos area. The alluvial aquifers are protected ground waters under N.M. Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) regulations because their TDS is less than 10,000 mg/L and because they meet the following WQCC definition:

"ground water" means interstitial water which occurs in saturated earth material and which is capable of entering a well in sufficient amounts to be utilized as a water supply (Section 1-101).

In fact, alluvial ground water has been utilized as a water supply. Perched zones of saturation in the volcanic rock also would be protected if they meet that definition.

All inorganic samples, except for Hg, collected for compliance with WQCC ground-water regulations must be filtered through a 0.45 um porous membrane in order to obtain the dissolved portion of contaminants (Section 3-103). It has been our experience that unfiltered samples contain artificially high levels of many metals due to naturally occurring suspended solids, particularly in monitoring wells. I have observed this in New Mexico with regard to Al, As, Fe, Mn and Se.

I trust this letter satisfies your needs. If you have any questions, please call me at 827-2831.

Sincerely,

Dennis McQuillan

Dennis McQuillan
Remediation Manager
Ground Water Protection and Remediation Bureau

HSWA LANL G/M/MS



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