



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

27 March 1996

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
DOE OVERSIGHT BUREAU
P.O. Box 1663, MS/J-993
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

11/11
IED -
Info/Action
from AIP
Court

MARK E. WEIDLER
SECRETARY

EDGAR T. THORNTON, III
DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr. Court Fesmire, LAAO AIP
Point of Contact
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

**SUBJECT: Recommendations concerning Environmental Restoration (ER)
geophysical activities, Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico**

Dear Mr. Fesmire:

As part of DOE OB's oversight of ground-water activities (issues) concerning LANL's ER Project, it has been brought to our attention that there is little or no information to date concerning the occurrence of shallow ground water in Pueblo Canyon. Exploratory geophysical activities were conducted by LANL in Pueblo Canyon during December 1995 and January 1996. The objective was to locate and/or define areas where ground water exists in Pueblo Canyon. It has come to our attention that exploratory geophysical activities were conducted prior to any type of preparatory investigation. Preparatory investigations would include such elements as collecting data or signatures (e.g., temperature anomalies) in areas such as Mortandad Canyon and/or Los Alamos Canyon, where ground-water characteristics (e.g., saturated thickness, lateral boundaries) are known. That is, it might be more scientifically valid to first determine how geophysical data correlate to known ground-water system(s) before entering unexplored areas. As part of DOE OB's general technical comments regarding ER Work Plans, it is recommended that a preparatory investigation (i.e., calibration of a method) be performed prior to entering unexplored areas. We have verbally conveyed our concerns to Field Unit 4 personnel. If there are any questions concerning this matter please contact me at 672-0448.

Sincerely,

Steve Yanicak, NMED, DOE OB, LANL POC
New Mexico Environment Department

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