

Michael's Copy



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

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

MARK E. WEIDLER
SECRETARY

April 8, 1997

Mat Johansen, DOE LAO AIP POC
U.S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
528 35th Street, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

RE: Request for access to Water Canyon, Los Alamos National
Laboratory

Dear Mr. Johansen:

The DOE OB is requesting approval to gain access to Water Canyon in order to assess flow conditions and/or collect surface-water samples. We are requesting access to Water Canyon from the east via a jeep trail connecting with SR 4. The DOE OB would like to perform the above activities on April 16, 1997. Justification for this request is due to the following:

On February 21, 1997, DOE OB inspected the Water Canyon Gallery Spring (WCG Spring), which is located in a northern tributary to Water Canyon. A break in the water-line approximately 400' downstream from the spring source (bulkhead) was discovered, and flow was continuous for approximately 300' downstream. We inspected the site again on March 23, 1997, and noted that flow had now extended to the junction of Water Canyon and SR 501. Less than 0.01 cfs was observed flowing above or upstream of the northern tributary and Water Canyon confluence; therefore, it is assumed that the majority of flow observed at the Water Canyon and SR 501 junction was derived from localized snowmelt and WCG Spring. **These observations may indicate that perennial conditions have now been established in the upper reach of Water Canyon.**

Please contact Michael Dale at 672-0449 or Ralph Ford-Schmid at 827-1536 with your response.

Sincerely,

Steve Yanicak, LANL POC
Department of Energy Oversight Bureau



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SY:mrd

cc: Joe Mose, DOE LAAO, FU-3 & FU-6 FPC, MS A316
Ted Taylor, DOE LAAO, Program Manager, EM/ER, MS A316
Bob Simeone, DOE LAAO, FU-4 FPC, MS A316
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