

General



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



GARY JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

MARK E. WEIDLER
SECRETARY

17 February 1998

LANL/ES/SW
Mr. Mat Johansen, AIP POC
U.S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
528 35th Street, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

RE: Department of Energy Oversight Bureau (DOE OB) Request for Internet Access to Stream-flow and Transducer (Water-level) Data at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

Dear Mr. Johansen:

The DOE OB is requesting that LANL provide WWW access to data from its stream-gage network and past water-level measurements of its wells. We recommend that WWW access to stream-discharge data be as close as possible to real-time and should include an interface which would allow users to query the system for past records. Transducer (water-level) data could be updated on a quarterly basis. An extension of the interface located at <http://weather.lanl.gov/cgi-bin/datarequest.pl> to include this data would be ideal.

Many benefits would be gained by providing WWW access to stream-gages and stream-flow data. This information would be available for both NMED, Native American Pueblos, and LANL to rapidly and cost-effectively

- Enhance the public safety by providing data for forecasting and managing floods
- Evaluate surface and ground-water interactions
- Characterize current water-quality conditions
- Determine input rates of sediments and potential pollutants into estuaries
- Compute loads of sediment and chemical constituents
- Study and understand the biological effects of contamination
- Accurately estimate the effects of vegetation and soil type on runoff
- Delineate and manage flood plains
- Determine permit requirements for discharge of treated wastewater
- Detect leaks and accidental discharges to the environment from LANL facilities



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- Manage storm-water runoff and aid in the management of LANL's NPDES program
- Improve the design of culverts and road-cuts
- Administer compacts and resolve conflicts between LANL, the State of New Mexico, local pueblo governments, and other federal entities.

By allowing LANL, NMED, and tribal system users to generate their own data queries and download both long and short term records, a great deal of time and money could be saved. In addition, the inclusion of these records into the site <http://weather.lanl.gov/cgi-bin/datarequest.pl> would allow LANL personnel that administer the FIMAD database to focus their resources on other tasks.

Allowing users to download all existing transducer data and future water-level data from the internet would allow LANL and NMED personnel to cost-effectively

- Estimate and model contaminant transport throughout various LANL Technical Areas
- Accurately estimate recharge in the area
- Develop timely ground-water and geochemical models
- Rapidly characterize contaminated sites for clean-up
- Better manage water resources in the area to avoid ground-water mining and depletion.

As with the stream-flow data, greater accessibility would save LANL time and money over the long run.

In addition to aiding the DOE OB with its mission, increasing the accessibility of environmental surveillance and restoration data at LANL would significantly decrease the amount of time for DOE personnel to respond to public inquiries regarding ER and ES activities at LANL, thereby improving public confidence in DOE.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact Dennis Romero, of our staff, at 672-0459. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Steve Yanicak, LANL POC
Department of Energy Oversight Bureau

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SY:dr

cc: **John Parker**, NMED, Chief, DOE OB
Steve Rae, LANL, Group Leader, ESH-18, MS K497
Mike Alexander, LANL, ESH-18, MS K497
Bruce Gallaher, LANL, ESH-18, MS K497
Roy Michelotti, LANL, ER PRS Group, CST-7, MS E525
Allyn Pratt, LANL, ER Canyons Group, MS J524
Bonnie Koch, DOE LAAO, MS A316

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