



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

March 23, 1998

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

RE: Various issues within Los Alamos Canyon

During a March 17, 1998, field excursion into Los Alamos Canyon, OB personnel noticed the following:

1. The BMPs located approximately 300 ft west of water supply well O-4 are in serious disrepair. There are exposed cables and rebar throughout a quarter-mile stretch of the watercourse. The exposed cables and rebar appear to represent a significant hazard for wildlife. The grass reseeded along the stream bank and road in this area appears to have taken hold, which may negate the need for BMPs in this area. However, if NMED SWQB determines that BMPs are still necessary, they do need a major amount of maintenance.
2. The weirs associated with gaging stations E030 and E042 are filled with significant amounts of sediment, which may render them ineffective. If these weirs are indeed ineffective, this will significantly affect any ongoing or future hydrologic studies (e.g., water-balance calculations) for Los Alamos Canyon. From a cursory glance, it appears that the flow measurements along these areas of the watercourse may be measured more accurately with rectangular weirs, capable of measuring high flows of 150 to 200 cfs.
3. The two 18-inch culverts installed near LADP-3 have washed out and represent a significant erosional hazard to the streambank and road. These culverts should be replaced before any major amount of spring runoff occurs. In addition, it may be prudent to replace these culverts with one sized for a significant storm event (i.e., a 100-year, 12-hour event).

Items (1) and (3) were outlined in a May 27, 1997, letter sent to you from our office. Jorg Jansen responded to these issues in a letter dated June 19, 1997 (EM/ER:97-230). In his response, Mr. Jansen outlined a plan of action to solve these problems. However, it appears as though the results of this plan were not entirely effective. If you have any questions regarding these observations, please do not hesitate to contact Dennis Romero, of our staff, at 672-0459.

Sincerely,

Steve Yanicak, LANL POC
 Department of Energy Oversight Bureau

SY/dr

cc: John Parker, NMED, Chief, DOE OB
 Michael Dale, NMED, DOE OB, MS J-993
 Barbara Hoditschek, NMED, SWQB
 Bonnie Koch, LAAO, MS A-316
 Steve Rae, ESH-18, MS K-497
 File, NMED, DOE OB



LANL/MISC

LANL
 General
 (Surface Weir, BMPs)