



GARY E. JOHNSON  
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Hazardous Waste Bureau**  
2044 A Galisteo, P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110  
Telephone (505) 827-1557  
Fax (505) 827-1544



PETER MAGGIORE  
SECRETARY

PAUL R. RITZMA  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

**CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

January 24, 2001

Dr. John C. Browne, Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, MS-A100  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Mr. Theodore Taylor, Area Manager  
Los Alamos Area Office-Department of Energy  
528 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

**RE: SCHEDULE OF GROUNDWATER CHARACTERIZATION AND MONITORING  
WELLS FOR THE 2001 FISCAL YEAR,  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY,  
EPA ID NO. NM0890010515**

Dear Mr. Browne and Mr. Taylor:

This letter serves as the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB) approval of the schedule for the installation of groundwater characterization wells under Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) Hydrogeologic Workplan (Workplan). A well installation schedule was presented at the March 2000 Annual Workplan meeting held March 29-31, 2000 and was revised due to delays resulting from the Cerro Grande Fire. The revised and final schedule was presented during the October 3-5, 2000 Quarterly Workplan meeting. Three additional characterization/monitoring wells are also addressed in this letter.

The Workplan proposes a program for characterizing the hydrogeology beneath the Pajarito Plateau. Under the Workplan, characterization wells are to be constructed in such a manner so as to allow for use as a part of any required groundwater monitoring systems. The characterization activities were required as part of the NMED denial of the LANL groundwater monitoring waiver request (letter dated May 30, 1995) and subsequent letter regarding concerns over LANL's Ground Water Protection Program (letter dated August 17, 1995). The NMED denial was based on the insufficient information regarding the hydrogeologic conditions beneath LANL that were provided in the LANL groundwater monitoring waiver request under 40 CFR §265.90 (c) (incorporated at 20.1.4.600 NMAC). The Workplan also addresses the site-wide hydrogeologic

LANL HSWA G/F/MS 01 HWB

27



13471

Dr. Browne and Mr. Taylor  
January 24, 2001  
Page 2 of 3

characterization requirements outlined in the LANL Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) Permit, Module VIII, Task III: Facility Investigation Section.

The schedule/number of wells that HWB agreed to and expects completed this fiscal year (FY-2001) was presented in the October 3-5, 2000 Quarterly Workplan meeting and is as follows: R-5, R-7, R-8, R-13, R-22, and R-27. An additional regional aquifer well located at Technical Area (TA)-37, identified as CdV-R37-2, is also expected for completion this fiscal year. CdV-R37-2 is part of the characterization outlined in the RCRA Corrective Measures Study at the 16-260 Outfall [Potential Release Site 16-021(c)-99]. Additionally, two intermediate depth wells (600-700 feet) in Mortandad Canyon are also to be completed. These wells are required under the Mortandad Canyon Work Plan and the TA-50 Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility discharge permit. Although the schedule is approved for the 2001 FY, HWB is still concerned over the slow pace of installation of the characterization wells. The Workplan was to be completed by FY 2002 and is now scheduled for completion FY 2005. HWB realizes that some of the latest delays may have been beyond LANL's control; however, LANL must make every effort to complete the Workplan by the original (FY 2002) schedule. Recent proposed changes in the drilling strategy should allow LANL to expedite the current FY 2005 Workplan completion date.

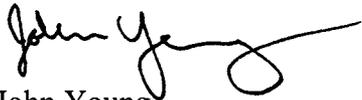
At least two weeks prior to the drilling of each well, LANL shall submit to HWB a Field Implementation Plan (FIP) or similar document that outlines the data quality objectives for the well, methods of data and sample collection and analysis, expected total depth for the well, drilling/completion schedule, expected geology and groundwater horizons, and expected use of geophysics. In addition, a weekly drilling update via email to NMED to document progress and any problems encountered during drilling. These weekly drilling updates will facilitate communication between LANL and NMED regarding the drilling program(s).

LANL shall notify the HWB and the NMED Department of Energy-Oversight Bureau (DOE-OB) within 6 hours of when water is encountered during drilling so that NMED may split screening samples with LANL. In addition, a completion report is required to be submitted to HWB within 30 days of well completion. A *complete data package* shall also be submitted to the HWB and DOE-OB within 60 days of well completion. The data package shall include but is not limited to, all screening chemical analyses, geophysical logs, hydrogeologic property testing, core/cutting analyses, etc. The required package is a data submittal *only*, interpretations of data are not requested. This is to ensure a timely data submittal to the regulatory agency and other stakeholders of preliminary findings.

Dr. Browne and Mr. Taylor  
January 24, 2001  
Page 3 of 3

Should you have any questions please call me at (505) 827-1558, extension 1036.

Sincerely,



John Young  
LANL Corrective Action Project Leader  
Permits Management Program

JRY

cc: P. Allen, NMED HWB  
J. Bearzi, NMED HWB  
C. Will, NMED HWB  
✓ J. Young, NMED HWB  
J. Parker, NMED DOE-OB  
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE-OB, MS-J993  
M. Leavitt, NMED GWQB  
D. Neleigh, EPA, 6PD-N  
J. Vozella, DOE LAAO, MS-A316  
G. Turner, DOE LAAO, MS-A316  
J. Canepa, LANL, EM/ER, MS-M992  
M. Kirsch, LANL EM/ER, MS-M992  
D. McInroy, LANL EM/ER, MS-M992  
D. Erickson, ESH-DO, MS-K491  
C. Nylander, ESH-18, MS-K497

File: Reading and LANL HSWA, G/P/M/S 01-HWP