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**To:(Addressees - Organization)** ARDYTH SIMMONS, LANL  
*(separate multiple values with semicolons)* MATHEW JOHANSEN, DOE

**From:(Senders - Organization)** JOHN YOUNG, HWB-NMED  
*(separate multiple values with semicolons)*

**Other Document Number(s):** N/A  
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14705

Young, John, NMENV, 10:01 AM 12/14/2006, Background groupings

094447

③

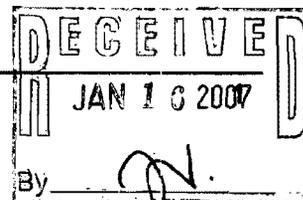
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 Subject: Background groupings  
 Date: Thu, 14 Dec 2006 10:01:42 -0700  
 X-MS-Has-Attach:  
 X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:  
 Thread-Topic: Background groupings  
 Thread-Index: AccfoYd8/L50KMn7RQOCEN9PRzjwgw==  
 From: "Young, John, NMENV" <john.young@state.nm.us>  
 To: "Ardyth Simmons" <asimmons@lanl.gov>, <dewart@lanl.gov>, "Johansen, Mathew" <mjohansen@doeal.gov>  
 Cc: "Shen, Hai, NMENV" <Hai.Shen@state.nm.us>, <mdale@lanl.gov>, "Cobrain, Dave, NMENV" <dave.cobrain@state.nm.us>  
 X-OriginalArrivalTime: 14 Dec 2006 17:03:24.0126 (UTC) FILETIME=[C3F68FE0:01C71FA1]  
 X-Proofpoint-Virus-Version: vendor=fsecure engine=4.65.5446:2.3.11,1.2.37,4.0.164 definitions=2006-12-14\_03:2006-12-14,2006-12-13,2006-12-14 signatures=0  
 X-Proofpoint-Spam: 0  
 X-PMX-Version: 4.7.1.128075

Ardyth,

Now that NMED has been able to find the time to review your list NMED provides the following comments:

- As a reminder, we don't want the regional I grouping (east-side locations) or the regional II grouping to be included in the data set for LANL background. The chemistry doesn't match and is not appropriate to consolidate with the groundwater data set from the Puye Formation beneath the Pajarito Plateau. Also, some locations listed (e.g., Black Mesa) show possible impacts from anthropogenic sources. The difference in groundwater chemistry between some of the locations listed in the groupings is marked (e.g., isotopic signatures and uranium concentrations between the Buckman Well Field and Springs 1 and 2 and the PM wells. For example, total uranium at Sandia Spring and Buckman 2 (Regional I stations), are roughly 1 ppb and 25 ppb, respectively. This large variability would lead to high uncertainties in the uranium background value for the regional aquifer beneath the Laboratory.
- Nitrate in R-13 appears to be twice the concentration of other background locations (e.g., R-1) and shouldn't be used.
- Spring 2 emits from a wetland and shouldn't be used (ClO<sub>4</sub> is not present) because it doesn't represent groundwater chemistry.
- Springs 5b, 6 and 6a are impacted by the river during high river stages and should be used with caution if at all.
- PM-1 and PM-3 (and O-4) show evidence of anthropogenic contamination and shouldn't be used in the background data set.
- Caveats for the appropriate use of each data set/grouping must be discussed in some

Printed for Ardyth Simmons <asimmons@lanl.gov>



detail.

A list of recommended stations was compiled from our notes from meetings follows. For comparison, your "final" locations are provided at the end.

**NMED locations**

**Alluvial:**

LAO-B  
Pine Spring

**Intermediate**

Water Canyon Gallery  
Seven Springs  
CDV-5.0 Spring  
LAOI-1.1(A)  
Barbara Spring  
Campsite Spring

**Regional**

G-1A  
G-2A  
G-3A  
G-4A  
G-5A  
R-1  
R-13 (Nitrate is roughly twice that of R-1, questionable)  
R-21  
R-18  
PM-4  
PM-2  
PM-5  
Sacred Spring  
Spring 6A; May be impacted by high river stages  
Spring 8A  
Spring 9  
Spring 9A  
Ancho Spring  
Sandia Spring  
Spring 1  
Spring 5B; Most times, the spring is impacted by high river stages  
Spring 6; May be impacted by high river stages  
Spring 9B

Let us know of the time crunch, we will entertain a delay in the due date of the report.

john

The Hazardous Waste Bureau will soon switch to a new phone system.

Around December 7th, 2006 my new contact information will be:

Phone: (505) 476-6038

Fax: (505) 476-6030

Main: (505) 476-6000

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