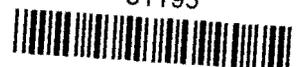


This update is provided to parties interested in a status on the chromium investigation underway at Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory). The Laboratory has just completed drilling of core hole SCI-2 to (1) collect core samples for analysis of metals and anions in pore water and rock and (2) investigate the presence and nature of perched water (particularly within the basalt horizon approximately 420–630 ft below ground surface [bgs]), and (3) provide the information necessary to determine whether a perched intermediate well (SCI-2) or a regional well (R-43) should be designed for this location. The location for this core hole was selected because the numerical and conceptual models indicate it is within the main infiltration zone for past chromium migration.

A zone of perched intermediate groundwater was encountered in the core hole within fractured basalt at approximately 509 ft bgs. The results of several preliminary screening-level analyses from the perched intermediate groundwater show chromium concentrations at approximately 500 parts per billion. Several other constituents indicative of a source in Sandia Canyon (including nitrate, sulphate, and zinc) were also present in the samples. The screening-level samples taken from the perched intermediate groundwater were from an open core hole and were analyzed by the Laboratory's on-site laboratory.

The presence of perched groundwater and the chromium concentrations has led to a recommendation to build a well within the core hole to collect quality data from the perched intermediate zone. The well will be constructed using 2-in.-inside-diameter polyvinyl chloride and will be screened between approximately 546 ft and 566 ft bgs. The design of this well is consistent with a well screened in bedrock as per the Compliance Order on Consent. The Laboratory also recommends completion of a regional well (R-43) at a step-aside location to SCI-2.

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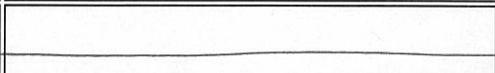
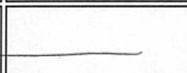
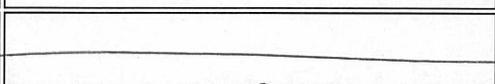
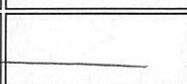
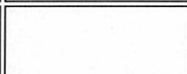
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**Document Catalog Number EP2008-0488** (Please prefix the name of all electronic versions of this document with this number.)

\* Required Field

<b>*Document Title / Subject</b>	LANL Update on the Chromium Project August 2008	
<b>PRSs</b>	None	
<b>Associated Document Catalog Number(s)</b>	None	
<b>*Author</b>	Katzman, Danny	667 6333 katzman@lanl.gov
<b>*Organization</b>	EP: LANL Water Stewardship Program (LWSP) - PKG #1729	
<b>Document Team</b>	None	
<b>*Document Type</b>	Correspondence	Former OU <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Date Due</b>	<b>Date Final Complete</b> 9/5/2008	<b>Date Sent to DOE</b>
<b>Date Sent to NMED</b>	<b>Date Sent to RPF (Paper &amp; Electronic)</b>	
<b>Received Per RPF</b>	<b>RPF ER ID Number</b>	
<b>CT No</b>	<b>LA-UR Number</b> LA-UR-08-	
<b>Performance Measure No</b>		
<b>AA Deliverable</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Certification Required</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Force Peer Review</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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