

Kulis, Jerzy, NMENV

From: Kulis, Jerzy, NMENV
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 4:21 PM
To: 'rsking@lanl.gov'
Cc: 'Ardyth Simmons'; hshen@doeal.gov
Subject: MDLs above groundwater standards

Attachments: E-mail attachment 3-09 NMED 24 hr results1.xls; Monthly Groundwater Data Review April 2009.txt



E-mail attachment 3-09 NMED 24...
Monthly Groundwater Data Rev

Bob,

I am forwarding you the e-mail that we received from the public (and our response) regarding MDLs above groundwater standards for pentachlorophenol and benzo(a)pyrene in R-38. As you can see, it is important for the Lab to maintain detection limits below screening levels.

Thanks,

Jerzy Kulis
Environmental Scientist
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303
Phone: 505-476-6039
Fax: 505-476-6030

-----Original Message-----

From: Bearzi, James, NMENV
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 11:09 AM
To: 'Joni Arends'
Cc: Goldstein, Jon, NMENV; De Saillan, Charles, NMENV
Subject: RE: Contamination in Well R-38

Joni --

We received the required notification regarding benzene exceedance in R-38 on April 14, 2009. I've attached a copy of the notification e-mail from LANL and an attachment to that e-mail that lists these and other exceedances. The subsequent sampling for benzene on May 1, 2009 showed concentrations below 2 micrograms/L (MCL for benzene is 5 micrograms/L).

Regarding detection limits for benzo(a)pyrene and pentachlorophenol, they were, indeed, above the MCL standards for these and other constituents. We will address this issue through our review and approval of the 2009 Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan. In summary, LANL will need to lower their detection limits on a number of organic constituents.

NMED declines to discuss its thoughts with respect to any enforcement actions it may or may not take against any potential or alleged violator.

-----Original Message-----

From: Joni Arends [mailto:jarends@nuclearactive.org]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2009 5:05 PM
To: Bearzi, James, NMENV; Goldstein, Jon, NMENV; De Saillan, Charles, NMENV
Subject: Contamination in Well R-38

Good afternoon,

We have discovered through use of the RACER database that LANL has detected benzene contamination above the drinking water standards in Well R-38 for a sample collected on



February 6, 2009., The detection of benzene has continued in samples collected on May 1, 2009 for Well R-38.

Further, LANL is using a detection limit above the drinking water standard for pentachlorophenol and benzo(a)pyrene for similar samples from Well R-38. Consent Order Section IX.C.3.c "Method Reporting Limits" requires using the most sensitive analytical method.

Has DOE/LANL reported this exceedance to NMED under the Consent Order? If so, please send their notice. If not, will NMED pursue an enforcement action for the benzene exceedance?

Joni

--

Joni Arends, Executive Director
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
107 Cienega Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Tel (505) 986-1973
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www.nuclearactive.org

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March 2009 Groundwater Results, First above Standard (for data collected since 6/14/07)										
Watershed/Zone	Location	Start Date	Fld Prep Code	Analyte Desc	Std Result	LVL Type/Risk Code	Screen Level	Std Mdl	Std Uom	Results above std before 6/14/07?
Lower Los Alamos Canyon (San Ildefonso Pueblo)										
Intermediate Spring	Basalt Spring	01/13/09	F	Perchlorate	4.39	NMED GW CONS	4	0.5	ug/L	no
Mortandad Canyon (includes Ten Site Canyon and Canada del Buey)										
Regional	R-38	02/06/09	UF	Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	6.14	EPA PRIM DW STD	6	2.3	ug/L	no
Regional	R-38	02/06/09	UF	Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	7.33	EPA PRIM DW STD	6	2.1	ug/L	no
Regional	R-38	02/06/09	UF	Benzene	6.34	EPA PRIM DW STD	5	0.3	ug/L	no
Regional	R-38	02/06/09	UF	Benzene	23.8	EPA PRIM DW STD	5	0.3	ug/L	no
Pajarito Canyon (includes Twomile and Threemile Canyons)										
Regional	R-22	02/24/09	F	Iron	8670	NM GW STD	1000	25	ug/L	yes
Regional	R-22	02/24/09	F	Iron	14800	NM GW STD	1000	25	ug/L	yes
Regional	R-22	02/24/09	F	Manganese	4000	NM GW STD	200	2	ug/L	yes
Regional	R-22	02/24/09	F	Manganese	2580	NM GW STD	200	2	ug/L	yes

Monthly Groundwater Data Review April 2009

From: Ardyth Simmons [asimmons@lanl.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 6:11 PM
To: Bearzi, James, NMENV; Cobrain, Dave, NMENV; Dale, Michael, NMENV;
Kulis, Jerzy, NMENV
Cc: huberpr@lanl.gov; slug@lanl.gov; asimmons@lanl.gov;
katzman@lanl.gov; camangeng@lanl.gov; cbegay@doeal.gov;
emignardot@doeal.gov; goering@lanl.gov; nwerdel@doeal.gov;
hshen@doeal.gov; ssschulman@doeal.gov
Subject: Monthly Groundwater Data Review

Attachments: 3-09 NMED 24 hr results1.xls

James and others,

The LANL monthly groundwater data review was held on April 14, 2009.
This review incorporates data received by LANL during March 2009.

The measurements listed in the attached table have been identified as exceeding a New Mexico water quality standard, or federal MCL, or screening level, and (based on data collected since June 14, 2007) have not been previously detected above the respective standard. Note that in some cases (as indicated in the table) these constituents were detected above the respective standards or screening levels prior to June 14, 2007.

Following the provisions of the Compliance Order on Consent, modified May 13, 2008, I called you on April 14th with this information, within 24 hours of the data review. This e-mail is provided as a record of that phone call.

We will be following up the phone call (and this email) with a letter within two weeks. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Ardyth Simmons
LANL Water Stewardship
Program Manager
(505) 665-3935 (ph)
(505) 699-3695 (cell)
(505) 665-4747 (fax)

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