General

ENTERED

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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NEWS RELEASE
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The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) continues vigilant oversight of air monitoring in the Los Alamos and surrounding areas. The Environment Department is taking independent measurements to further assure the public that accurate information is being provided on the status of air quality. Please note that these monitors are **in addition** to what Los Alamos National Laboratory is using on their property.

NMED's Department of Energy (DOE) Oversight Bureau continues to change out filters regularly at **5** permanent air monitors stationed around the perimeter of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

NMED's Department of Energy (DOE) Oversight Bureau also is using **1** additional mobile air monitoring station currently taking samples in the area of the Los Alamos Airport.

Each of these NMED DOE Oversight air monitors collects air samples on a filter. The filter is removed after the sample period and is sent to one of two outside laboratories in the United States, either in Colorado or St. Louis. The scientific analysis of the filter requires several days to get the most accurate count of atmospheric elements. The process for this analysis can take up to seven days to complete.

In addition to these monitors, New Mexico Environment Department has coordinated the arrival and emplacement of up to **16** more air monitors. Most of these monitors will be operated by the EPA and the New Mexico Environment Department. A few of these monitors will be operated by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) with direct oversight provided by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). All of these monitors have been strategically placed around the area of the Las Conchas Fire and in the direction of wind paths.

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Here is the current breakdown:

OPERATIONAL AIR MONITOR LOCATION:	# OF MONTIORS:	AGENCY:
Santa Clara Pueblo	3	EPA & NMED
San Ildefonso Pueblo	1	EPA & NMED
Nambe	1	EPA & NMED
Pojoaque	1	EPA & NMED
Santa Fe	1	EPA & NMED
Abiquiu	1	EPA & NMED
Jemez	1	EPA & NMED
Pena Blanca	1	EPA & NMED
Cuba	1	EPA & NMED
Espanola	1	EPA & NMED
Taos	2	LANL & NMED
Dixon	1	LANL & NMED
Embudo	1	LANL & NMED

In addition to these monitors, New Mexico Environment Department is working with the EPA to set up **2** more air monitors.

INSTALLATION-IN-PROGRESS LOCATION:

Cochiti Pueblo	2	EPA & NMED

In addition to these monitor stations, the EPA and NMED have **12** additional air monitors at its disposal. The agencies will be dispatching these monitors to new locations depending on the wind and fire direction.

All Air monitors will look for one or more of the following:

- Alpha Activity
- Beta Activity
- Gamma Isotopic Activity
- Isotopic Plutonium
- Americium-241
- Isotopic Uranium
- Strontium-90
- Cesium-137

SUMMARY:

TOTAL NUMBER OF AIR MONITORS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT:

	5	(NMED DOE Oversight on LANL Perimeter)
+	1	(NMED DOE Oversight Mobile)
+	16	(EPA/LANL under NMED Supervision ON SITE)
+	2	(EPA under NMED Supervision In Progress)
+	12	(EPA under NMED Supervision In Reserve)

36 TOTAL

The New Mexico Department of Environment will post sampling data after a quality assurance review by scientists. Air monitoring samples from these specific monitors take seven days to complete.

As announced yesterday by Governor Susana Martinez, preliminary data from the EPA's ASPECT Aircraft is now being posted online at: http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/.

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