



State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
DOE OVERSIGHT BUREAU
 P.O. Box 1663, MS/J-993
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545



GARY JOHNSON
 GOVERNOR

MARK E. WEIDLER
 SECRETARY

9 January 1998

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 DOE OVERSIGHT BUREAU

LANL - Outside (Guaje Canyon)

Mr. Mat Johansen, AIP POC
 U.S. Department of Energy
 Los Alamos Area Office
 528 35th Street, MS A316
 Los Alamos, NM 87544

RE: Department of Energy Oversight Bureau (DOE OB) Recommendations concerning Spill Closures at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

Dear Mr. Johansen:

On December 15, 1997, I accompanied Harvey Decker of LANL, ESH-18 to a spill site (1203 release notification) located in Guaje Canyon at the Guaje replacement well #3. The spill occurred on 11-28-97 and was first reported on 12-2-97. The reported spill was approximately 2500 gallons of drilling slurry (Quick Gel®) overflow that was a mixture of water, silica, bentonite and sodium montmorillonite (clay). The only substance in Quick Gel® listed as a possible human-hazard inhalation concern is crystalline silica (2 - 6%). The spill flowed into a tributary of Guaje Canyon for approximately 150 yards, and into Guaje Canyon for another 40 yards. Remediation of the spill occurred on 11-28-97 and was complete on 11-30-97.

After a thorough inspection of the site, it was demonstrated that all the slurry had been removed from the tributary drainage and Guaje Canyon. In addition, a silt fence was installed in the tributary drainage as a precautionary measure in the event of another occurrence.

Recommendation: Closure

This inspection was requested by ESH-18 and a copy of this correspondence will be delivered to the ESH-18 Group Leader. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 672-0448.

Sincerely,

Stephen Yanicak

Steve Yanicak, LANL POC
 Department of Energy Oversight Bureau

SY:sy

cc: John Parker, Chief, DOE OB
 Stu Dinwiddie, NMED, Program Manager, HRMB
 Glen Saums, NMED, Program Manager, SWQB
 Steve Rae, LANL, Group Leader, ESH-18, MS K497



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