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SEP 24 1999

1950 off-site

Honorable Terry Aguilar
Governor
San Ildefonso Pueblo
Rt. 5, Box 315A
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: Request by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Sample Canyon Sediments on San Ildefonso Property

Dear Governor Aguilar:

The EPA has tentative plans to conduct sampling at Los Alamos National Laboratories and some areas surrounding the Laboratory. Sampling is currently planned for late October or early November. One of the surrounding areas included in the draft proposal are Sandia and Mortandad Canyons located on San Ildefonso property. EPA proposes that sediment samples be collected in those Canyons. These samples would be taken by EPA's contractor Tech Law. A report containing the sampling results would be sent to the Pueblo. Enclosed for your review is a draft proposal of the areas/sites to be sampled.

In closing, EPA is requesting permission from the Pueblo to conduct sampling in the Canyons. If there are any questions/concerns about the proposed sampling locations or if there is a preference for other/additional locations, please contact me at (214) 665-7442. I hope to hear from you soon and thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rich Mayer
LANL Project Manager

Enclosure

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EPA Sampling Recommendations

Below are the recommendations for additional samples to be taken at LANL and areas surrounding the Laboratory. These samples will supplement the sampling performed in August and September of 1998 by Tech Law.

1. Sediment-quality assessment in Sandia Canyon, east of SR 4, San Ildefonso Pueblo. Data would qualitatively determine if LANL PRSs upstream have adversely affected or impacted sediments offsite. I suggest collecting approximately **10 samples** at selected geomorphic units. **Analytes include PCBs, TAL or RCRA metals, isotopic uranium and gross alpha/beta. (½ day)**

2. Sediment-quality assessment in Mortandad Canyon (east of SR 4, San Ildefonso Pueblo). Data would determine if upstream PRSs have adversely affected sediments downstream. I suggest collecting approximately **5 samples** at selected geomorphic units. **Analytes include PCBs, TAL or RCRA metals and 90Sr, isotopic Pu, gamma spec (137Cs, 241Am, 60Co, etc.), isotopic uranium and gross alpha/beta.** (½ day)

3. Bayo Canyon (offsite and upstream of San Ildefonso; land transfer area) sediments downstream of PRSs. This data would determine if legacy sources have impacted sediment quality downstream. I suggest collecting approximately **10 samples** at selected geomorphic units. **Analytes include PCBs, TAL or RCRA metals and 90Sr, isotopic Pu, and isotopic uranium and gross alpha/beta. (½ day)**

4. Sediment-quality assessment in Canada de Buey (east of SR 4, White Rock; residential area). Data would qualitatively determine if LANL PRSs upstream have adversely affected or impacted sediments downstream. I suggest collecting approximately **5 samples** at selected geomorphic units. **Analytes include PCBs, TAL or RCRA metals and 90Sr, isotopic Pu, gamma spec (137Cs, 241Am, 60Co, etc.), isotopic uranium and gross alpha/beta. (½ day)**

5. Sediment-quality assessment in Pajarito Canyon (east of SR 4, White Rock; residential area). Data would qualitatively determine if LANL PRSs upstream have adversely affected or impacted sediments downstream. I suggest collecting approximately **5 samples** at selected geomorphic units. **Analytes include PCBs, TAL or RCRA metals and 90Sr, isotopic Pu, gamma spec (137Cs, 241Am, 60Co, etc.), isotopic uranium and gross alpha/beta. (½ day)**

6. Sediment sampling at PRS 1-002, TA-45 tributary to the Acid and Pueblo Canyon confluence (Los Alamos County park area). This data would supplement the NMED Oversight Bureau's data which was collected this year in the TA-45 drainage. A preliminary risk assessment could be performed using this data. I suggest collecting approximately **10 samples** at selected geomorphic units. **Analytes include PCBs, TAL**

or RCRA metals and 90Sr, isotopic Pu, isotopic uranium and gamma spec (137Cs, 60Co, etc.). (½ day)

7. A total **three (3)** background sediment samples collected in Alamitos Canyon (north of Guaje Canyon; Santa Fe National Forest, I think), and three (3) in Alamo Canyon (south of Frijoles Canyon; Santa Fe National Forest, I think). Samples should be collected in the upper, middle and lower reaches of the referenced canyons. Data would validate or support LANL's draft background data that are presented in LANL's most recent draft background report dated September 22, 1998. Analyte suite would include: **TAL metals, and 90Sr, isotopic Pu, isotopic uranium, 241Am (alpha spec) and gamma spec (137Cs, 60Co, etc.). (1 day with two teams; one to the north and the other to the south)**

8. **One (1)** ground-water sample to be collected at monitoring well 03-MW-1, located at PRS 3-010(a), TA-3, Building SM-30. Analyses include **VOCs, 3H, total metals (TAL or RCRA), major anions, major cations/metals (dissolved Ca, Mg, K, Na, Si, Al, Fe, Mn, Sr).** (1/3 day)

9. Alluvial ground-water sampling in Mortandad Canyon. Sample **eight (8)** wells for **tritium, 90Sr, major cations (dissolved Ca, Na, K, Mg, Fe, Si, Sr, Al, Mn) and anions (Cl, F, HCO3, CO3, SO4), non-metallic inorganics (NO2/NO3 as N, total P, ammonia, TKN), RCRA or TAL metals (total), and nitrogen isotopes.** Primary objective would be to evaluate water quality over the last year and the change in effluent-quality and its affect to ground water since the change occurred. Would be good to take one **(1) outfall sample** (TA-50, 051 outfall). (3 days)

10. Ground-water sampling for **HE and VOCs** at production wells **PM-2, PM-4 and PM-5**. At production wells **O-1, O-4, PM-3 and PM-1**, it is recommended to sample for **90Sr, NO2/NO3 as N, total P, ammonia, TKN, total arsenic and total uranium. (½ day)**

11. Would be good to continue the characterization and monitoring of the RDX problem in upper and middle Pajarito Canyon (onsite springs and surface water showing RDX). **Seven (7) springs and three (4) surface-water stations** would need to be sampled. The springs include Homestead, Charlie's, Starmer, Bulldog, Kieling, TA-18, Threemile (B); surface-water stations include BU-0.01, PA-8.9, PA-6.7 and TM-0.4. Sample analyte suite includes **major cations (dissolved Ca, Na, K, Mg, Fe, Si, Sr, Al, Mn) and anions (Cl, F, HCO3, CO3, SO4), non-metallic inorganics (NO2/NO3 as N, total P, ammonia, TKN) and HE.** This data would compliment earlier samples collected by NMED in February and July of this year. (1 day with two teams)

12. Sediment-quality assessment in Ancho Canyon (east of SR 4, DOE property with pubic access/recreational). Data will determine if LANL PRSs upstream have adversely affected or impacted sediments downstream. I suggest collecting approximately **5 samples** at

selected geomorphic units. **Analytes include PCBs, TAL or RCRA metals and 90Sr, isotopic Pu, gamma spec (137Cs, 241Am, 60Co, etc.), isotopic uranium and gross alpha/beta. (½ day)**