

Off site

**State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Telephone (505) 428-2500
Fax (505) 428-2567**



**GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR**



**PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY**

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

December 19, 2001

Dr. John Browne, Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A100
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Mr. David A. Gurule, Area Manager
Department of Energy-Los Alamos Area Office
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DATA FROM 2001 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING
AND SURVEILLANCE SAMPLING ACTIVITIES
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY, NM0890010515**

Dear Dr. Browne and Mr. Gurule:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) requests Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the Department of Energy (DOE) submit analytical data from the 2001 Environmental Monitoring and Surveillance sampling activities. NMED is specifically requesting analytical data from all calendar year (CY) 2001 White Rock Canyon sampling event(s). The response should include data from any quality assurance and quality control samples collected during the sampling event(s), all field parameters collected and should indicate the analytical laboratory that provided the data. The 2001 White Rock Canyon data submittal must be submitted to NMED by February 15, 2002, and should follow the format of the data tables found in the LANL Annual Environmental Surveillance Report.

The LANL database that was accessible via the internet indicated that perchlorate had been detected in Spring 4 in two sampling events during CY 2000. As perchlorate is potentially indicative of a release to groundwater from current and/or historic LANL activities, NMED should have been formally notified of these detections. As a point of clarification and effective immediately, NMED requires that *any* future detection of contaminants at groundwater, surface water, storm water and/or spring locations where contamination has not been previously identified or where contaminant levels are increasing from historic concentrations/activities be



4125

Dr. John Browne and Mr. David A. Gurule
December 19, 2001
Page 2

reported to NMED within twenty-four (24) hours of discovery and in writing within fifteen (15) days of discovery, if no other reporting mandate supercedes this requirement. This reporting requirement must be accomplished whether the contaminants (e.g., perchlorate and radionuclides) are listed under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Water Quality Control Commission (20 NMAC 6.2) or other regulations.

It has come to the attention of NMED that LANL had previously misidentified the spring and that the detections of perchlorate are actually from several 4-series spring locations instead of one. NMED is therefore requiring that *all* spring, groundwater, and surface water and sediment sample locations be located by a global positioning system or other NMED accepted surveying method to within three feet of the *source*, well head, etc. Each sampling location also must be clearly identified at the sampling location in order to reduce the possibility of any future misidentification of sampling locations. Surveying and monumenting of all sample locations must be accomplished and the results reported to NMED no later than May 30, 2002.

Additionally, all spring samples must be collected as near the source as possible in order to ensure that representative samples are collected. If conditions are such that the health and safety of personnel is an issue, LANL must sample as close to the source as possible. The sampling locations must remain consistent with each sampling event unless site-specific conditions do not allow it (e.g., the spring is dry). Any samples not collected at the source or in the routine sampling location must be noted and explained in the text of the report and data submittal.

Also effective immediately, in order to improve the timeliness of information dissemination, the Annual Environmental Surveillance Report data, which is a condition of the Los Alamos National Laboratory RCRA Permit (HSPA Module VIII *Special Conditions Pursuant to the 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to RCRA for Los Alamos National Laboratory, EPA ID NM0890010515*; Section C.2 Monitoring of Surface and Ground Water) must be delivered to the NMED and made available to the public no later than March 31 of the calendar year following data collection. Currently, the release date for the Annual Surveillance Report data is approximately one year (the following November) after the collection of the monitoring data. The timing of this deliverable is considered inadequate as it provides the public with environmental surveillance information well after any potential problems are detected.

Should you have any questions I can be reached at (505) 428-2538.

Sincerely,



John Young
LANL Corrective Action Project Leader
Permits Management Program

Dr. John Browne and Mr. David A. Gurule

December 19, 2001

Page 3

cc: J. Bearzi, NMED HWB
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
J. Kieling, NMED HWB
C. Will, NMED HWB
J. Davis, NMED SWQB
M. Leavitt, NMED GWQB
J. Parker, NMED DOE OB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993
D. Neleigh, EPA 6PD-N
M. Johansen, DOE LAAO, MS A316
J. Vozella, DOE LAAO, MS A316
J. Canepa, LANL EM/ER, MS M992
M. Kirsch, LANL EM/ER, MS M992
D. McNroy, LANL EM/ER, MS M992
D. Erickson, LANL ESH-DO, MS K491
S. Rae, LANL ESH-18, MS K497
file: Reading and HSWA LANL G/M/01