

7/29/97 7:30pm
From: Steven Reneau <sreneau@lanl.gov>
To: R6DAL02.R6TOXIC2(HILL-KIM),RTPMAINHUB.INTERNET("Jo...
Date: 7/29/97 7:30pm
Subject: Reach LA-5 Sediment Analyses

To interested parties:

New LA-5 sediment analyses in, except for particle size. Summary of key rad on attached excel spreadsheet. Sample locations on FIMAD plot 105684. Out of 24 new samples, we broke our old high of 1.38 pCi/g for Pu-239,240 in 3 samples, maxing at 2.5 pCi/g, for a total of 4 samples >1 pCi/g. And we got up to a whopping 1.1 pCi/g Cs-137. i.e., there ain't much there. Contaminants from Lab apparently highly diluted by sediment from other sources (particularly Bayo and Guaje Canyons). Highest values in fine-grained overbank deposits, as expected, and highest mostly in shallow subsurface horizons in floodplains. Layer with highest Pu is sandwiched between layers with lower Pu, suggesting we caught peak in that section.

I have not yet attempted a Pu or Cs inventory for this reach due to difficulty in defining unit thicknesses, but I will attempt at least a ballpark estimate for comparison with upstream reaches. Caveat: average Pu and Cs values for each geomorphic unit will be close to background values, limiting the usefulness of such an estimated inventory.

Any and all input welcome on where we go from here in LA-5, including any key unanswered questions.

Steve

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