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Date: 7/29/97 7:53pm
Subject: Reach LA-4 Sediment Sampling

To interested parties:

We are scheduled to collect our first round of sediment samples from reach LA-4 on Monday, August 3, possibly extending into Tuesday, August 4. As a reminder, LA-4 is on San Ildefonso Pueblo land upstream of Totavi and Bayo Canyon, where the sediments and associated contaminants from Pueblo Canyon and upper Los Alamos Canyons are mixing. This reach should be key in defining the relative amounts of sediments from these 2 sources and associated dilution of contaminants, and this reach should also contain the highest concentrations of lab-derived contaminants on Pueblo land.

We are being ambitious and attempting to address most of the expected uncertainties in this first sampling round, with luck allowing us to wrap up the reach in a 2nd round. We have obtained field gamma measurements from >40 depth profiles and feel we have well constrained the relative distribution of Cs-137 and associated contaminants from upper Los Alamos Canyon. One key issue to evaluate is the relation of the Pu derived from Pueblo Canyon to the Cs, as identified by the field gamma measurements, as Pu upstream is in too low concentrations to make field alpha radiation measurements useful here.

Our plan is to collect ~30-40 samples total, mostly from a series of depth profiles supplemented by some surface measurements. Each sample will be analyzed for both Cs and Pu, and in addition we will obtain analyses for Sr-90 and the Target Analyte List (TAL) metals on a smaller subset biased towards high gamma layers in the sampled depth profiles in order to partially evaluate colocation issues. We will further address possible colocation of various analytes with Pu in a 2nd sampling round once we understand Pu distribution better.

Please feel free to contact me for any reason.

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