

SK



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

April 21, 1998

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

RE: DOE OB water sampling at R-9

Dear Mr. Johansen:

The DOE OB would like the opportunity to sample the 688' zone at R-9 as soon as possible in order to validate the effectiveness of the seal above the 688' zone. The R-9 borehole has been on stand-by status for several months now, and OB technical staff feel that there is a potential risk for leakage across the numerous seals, especially given the fact that seals leaked or were breached during the drilling of R-9. In question are the one-inch-width seals that were placed between the casing and the borehole wall; these may not be adequate for isolating the numerous perch zones. Periodic sampling should be performed in order to illustrate that at least the zone above the 688' zone is not leaking.

DOE OB personnel are available to discuss this request and our concerns with LANL ER/ES personnel, if requested. Please contact Chris Hanlon-Meyer at 827-1536 or Michael Dale at 672-0449 if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Steve Yanicak, LANL POC
Department of Energy Oversight Bureau

SY:mrd

cc:

- J. Parker, NMED, Chief, DOE Oversight Bureau
- B. Garcia, NMED, Chief, HRMB
- G. Saums, NMED, Program Manager, SWQB
- S. Dinwiddie, NMED, Program Manager, HRMB
- P. Bustamante, NMED, GWQB
- T. Taylor, DOE LAAO, Program Manager, EM/ER, MS A316
- B. Koch, DOE LAAO, MS A316
- J. Canepa, LANL, ER Project Manager, MS M992
- A. Pratt, LANL, ER FPL, MS J521
- S. Rae, LANL, Group Leader, ESH-18, MS K497

c\



7000

TR

How low '4/21/98' 'DOE' 'PUEBLO CN'