



**Department of Energy**  
Albuquerque Operations Office  
Office of Los Alamos Site Operations  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

MAY 30 2002



TA-00 Pueblo Canyon H1100141 W1115

Mr. John Young  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Dear Mr. Young:

Subject: Groundwater Monitoring Wells PO-4A and PO-4B

Upon reviewing the draft Order (dated May 2, 2002), it came to our attention that two existing shallow alluvial ground water wells in Pueblo Canyon, PO-4A and PO-4B, are intended by your department for future ground water monitoring use. However, the Department of Energy (DOE) has planned, and is proceeding with its plans, to plug and abandon these two wells this summer. Monitoring well PO-3B, located in the vicinity of PO-4A and PO-4B, is also scheduled for plugging and abandonment this summer. The enclosed map shows the general location of these wells.

The decision to plug and abandon these wells was made based on the consideration of the following factors:

1. They are not appropriate for use for future monitoring because they were constructed in 1956 (last sampled in the mid-1970s) and do not meet current monitoring well construction standards;
2. As sub-standard monitoring wells due to their construction, they pose a potential groundwater pollution liability because they may act as a conduit for possible surface contamination to reach shallow ground water; and
3. They are located on a parcel of land proposed for accelerated transfer to the County of Los Alamos. The County intends to construct a new wastewater treatment plant on this parcel, and these construction activities would most likely adversely impact these wells.

Plugging and abandonment will be conducted in accordance with your agency's *Monitoring Well Construction and Abandonment Guidelines* (NMED - Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section, June 2000). After abandonment, written notification will be submitted to the NMED – GWPPS with the date and method of abandonment.



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Mr. John Young

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (505) 665-5046.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mat Johansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mat Johansen  
Office of Project Management

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

Marcy Leavitt  
Groundwater Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N-2250  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Joe Vozella, OFO, OLASO  
Herman Le-Doux, OPM, OLASO  
Ted Taylor, DIR, OLASO  
Charlie Nylander, RRES-WQH, LANL, MS-K497  
Steve Rae, RRES-WQH, LANL, MS-K497  
David Rogers, RRES-WQH, LANL, MS-K497  
Bob Beers, RRES-WQH, LANL, MS-K497  
Paul Schumann, RRES-ER, LANL, MS-M992  
Kim Birdsall, RRES-ER, LANL, MS-M992