

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

INFORMAL MEMO

TO: FileDate 5-13-86FROM: Jamie Wright

SUBJECT: Wells required to be installed by NMEID's May 7, 1985 CO
to Los Alamos NM0890010515

In Appendix C of the November 1985 Part B, observation wells are discussed which are to be installed in the alluvium of the Canada del Buey and the Pajarito Canyon. Construction of these wells includes $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch gravel between the casing and the hole wall to within 3 feet of the surface. This is improper well construction. The gravel should only be adjacent to the well screen, from the top of the well screen to within 3 feet of the surface. LAMC should (should have) install a bentonite seal. This is to prevent surface water from getting into the well. In other words, to prevent a conduit into the well from of water not in the alluvium.

The closure plan for Area L does not discuss well construction at all and indicates that the wells are in place. If this is true, ~~and~~ according to the certification, NMEID should inform LAMC that the wells are improperly constructed and not suitable for RCRA monitoring, even if they are only "observation wells".

