

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

memorandum

Canyons Focus Area

To/MS: Chris Hanlon-Meyer, NMED/DOE OB
John Young, NMED HRMB
From/MS: Allyn Pratt, EES-13/ER, M992
Phone/Fax: 667-4308, 665-4747
E-mail: pratt_allyn_r@lanl.gov
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Re: Upper Sandia Canyon Meeting Summary – Modification to First Round Sampling Approach

This memo documents a meeting held at the NMED on Monday, June 22, 1998, to discuss status on the field investigation underway in Upper Sandia Canyon. Representatives from the NMED included John Young (HRMB) and Chris Hanlon-Meyer (DOE OB). Also in attendance was Al Funk from PMC. An overview of the geomorphology was presented and preliminary conceptual models for Reaches S-1 and S-2 in Sandia Canyon were discussed.

One objective of the meeting was to discuss the sample site selection for the first round of sampling. In summary, the Sampling and Analysis Plan for Upper Sandia Canyon proposes sampling and analysis for an "indicator" contaminant (PCBs) at a large number of sites in the first round of sampling. The second round of sampling would then return to many of the first round sample sites with sampling and analysis for a full suite of contaminants at locations that contain high, medium and non-detectable PCB (indicator contaminant) concentrations. This would allow for an evaluation of contaminant collocation and provide the data necessary to evaluate the need and approach for a third round of sampling.

The proposed sampling approach for Upper Sandia Canyon is not in complete accordance with the approach described in the Core Document for Canyons Investigations, in that the Core Document approach is to collect full suite in the first round and tailor the suite as appropriate in subsequent rounds. The NMED raised the issue that implementation of the characterization approach presented in the Upper Sandia Canyon SAP (i.e. analysis for only an indicator contaminant in the first round of sampling) would result in a smaller number of samples collected for full suite analysis in the second round, resulting in less spatial coverage for potentially important contaminants such as the TAL metals.

In order to address NMED concerns, the approach for the first sampling round for Reaches S-1 and S-2 in Upper Sandia Canyon has been modified from the SAP as follows: (The number of samples for each type of analysis is approximate).

- 75 samples for PCBs, soil pH, total organic carbon, particle size distribution
- 35 samples for TAL metals
- 13 samples for SVOCs, TPH, gamma and alpha-emitting radionuclides, strontium-90, and tritium

The stratigraphic horizons selected for TAL metals and the "rest of suite" analyses were chosen to evaluate collocation and the relationship between particle size and contaminant concentration. The revised approach will provide thorough coverage in the first round and will likely significantly reduce the number of samples required for subsequent sampling rounds. It also provides the appropriate spatial coverage for contaminants other than the PCBs as the NMED suggested.

AP/DK/mjo

Cy:

R. Michelotti, CST-7, E525
G. McMath, CST-7, E525
A. Pratt, EES-13/ER, M992
D. Broxton, EES-1, M992
S. Reneau, EES-1, D462
EES-13/ER File, M992



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