

7A-03

Oral Communication Record

Date: 7/29/04

Time: 9 am - 1 pm
PM AM

Author: Danny Katzman

Communication With: NMED -
J. Young, D. GoeringCommunication: Conversation TelephoneCatalog No: 2004 -
(External Document Only)

Subject: Mortandad Canyon Drilling Activities

Telephone Number Called: NA

Affiliation: NMED

Other Pertinent Information: attended by Tom Whitacre (DOE), Danny Katzman (LANL), David Broxton (LANL), David Vaniman (LANL), John McCann (LANL), Mark Everett (Kleinfelder)

Discussion Summary:

DOE coordinated a meeting with representatives of the NMED, Hazardous Waste Bureau and LANL staff to discuss several topics related to the upcoming drilling activities in Mortandad Canyon. The meeting was coupled with a visit to Mortandad Canyon to examine proposed drilling sites. Several topics were discussed at the meeting and are summarized below.

1) Mortandad Canyon Investigation Report Schedule

The DOE led a discussion to clarify the request to push out the investigation report due date to the end of Oct. 2006. LANL submitted a letter to NMED on May 20, 2004 requesting a four month extension to the schedule date for the investigation report. LANL has not received any written response from the NMED. Emphasis at the meeting was placed on the schedule impacts caused by the identification of a nesting pair of Mexican spotted owls. NMED agreed to review options with their management for formalizing the approval. Options included 1) submitting a letter to LANL, or 2) modifying the schedule in the Consent Order. NMED will respond to DOE with a proposed resolution.

2) Locations/Status of Wells and Boreholes.

DOE led a discussion on the impacts caused by a large archeological exclusion area in lower Mortandad Canyon. This exclusion area impacts the proposed locations for characterization boreholes B-10, B-11, B-12, B-13, and alluvial piezometers A-3a-f. LANL and NMED agreed that characterization borehole B-13 will be eliminated, and B-10, B-11, and B-12 will be moved approximately 200 ft west. LANL indicated that borehole locations B-3 and B-4 cannot be accessed due to rugged terrain. NMED requested that LANL consider using geoprobe equipment (or similar technology) to access the rugged terrain of Mortandad Canyon for boreholes B-3 and B-4. LANL pointed out that the locations are highly inaccessible and that extensive environmental damage would be incurred by cutting access roads into that area. If data from the RFI indicate important data gaps for that portion of Mortandad Canyon, LANL and NMED will discuss potential technical approaches to resolving the data gaps. In addition, a final location for intermediate well I-1 is still being evaluated. Through subsequent discussions between NMED and LANL, it is agreed that further consideration will be given to the need for piezometers A-3a-f. LANL has an action to evaluate the potential utility of installing dedicated transducers for obtaining automated water-level measurements from existing wells in the vicinity of the initial proposed locations of A-3a-f in order to obtain equivalent data. LANL will provide the NMED with a summary of the evaluation.

A location on the north side of Mortandad Canyon is being considered to access a high-conductivity zone. Intermediate well I-10 will be moved from the south ledge along Mortandad Canyon to the adjacent mesa top to minimize access road construction costs and impacts. NMED suggested that proposed boreholes located within the sediment traps be moved to locations immediately to the south of the traps to avoid the potential for creating preferential pathways down backfilled boreholes. LANL agreed. Overall, NMED felt that these modifications didn't warrant any type of formal request or approval, and that they could be discussed in a deviations section in the Mortandad Canyon investigation report. The DOE/LANL team may pursue formal approval of the eliminated/modified locations, likely through a letter.

3) Alluvial Well Construction Requirements

There was a discussion pertaining to well construction requirements. The DOE/LANL team requested that NMED consider approving the well-construction design that is associated with drilling by direct push technology, particularly the smaller diameter that will be provided (2" vs. 4"). The current HSWA module prescribes well construction details, and the pending Consent Order is more open ended, but will not be approved in time to affect the installation of the alluvial wells in Mortandad Canyon. NMED expressed no concern with the use of direct push drilling and the associated well design. The NMED agreed to pursue options with their management for formalizing approval. Options

include 1) submitting a letter to LANL, or 2) requesting a HSWA permit modification. NMED will respond to DOE with a proposed resolution.

4) Clarification of 10 ft Sampling Intervals

The DOE/LANL team proposed that detailed characterization of core (radiological screening, detailed stratigraphic descriptions) would provide a basis for more focused sampling. This approach would likely result in sampling intervals that vary slightly from exact 10-ft spacing. The goal is to have intervals that are no greater than 10 ft to provide sufficient resolution of contaminant profiles. NMED concurred and stated that that is an inherent assumption in the Mortandad Canyon Groundwater Work Plan, Rev. 1

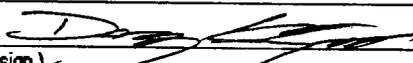
5) Field Visit

NMED was shown several of the proposed drilling sites including R-33, B-14, B-2, A-1, and I-1.

Action Item	Action Resolution/Completion
1. LANL requested formal notification from NMED for approval of the four month extension to the Mortandad Canyon investigation report	1. NMED to respond to LANL with a proposed resolution
2. Submit in writing a request to move characterization borehole locations planned in the Mortandad Canyon Groundwater Work Plan, Rev. 1.	2. LANL will review the need to formally request the modifications to the work plan or address these changes in the investigation report
3. LANL will evaluate which wells in the vicinity of the initial locations of piezometers A-3a-f would be useful for collection of automated water-level data in lieu of installation of A-3a-f. LANL will prepare a summary for NMED consideration.	3. NMED will review LANL's summary and provide a response.
4. NMED suggested that borehole locations currently sited within the sediment traps be moved to avoid creating potential preferential pathways down backfilled boreholes.	4. LANL will move the locations of these boreholes from within the traps to locations immediately south of the sediment traps.
5. LANL requested that NMED approve the well construction design associated with drilling by direct push technology	5. NMED will pursue options for approving the well construction design associated with drilling by direct push technology and will provide a response to the LANL.
6. LANL proposed using radiological screening and detailed stratigraphic descriptions to identify sampling intervals instead of using a fixed 10-ft sampling interval.	6. NMED concurred and indicated that it was an inherent assumption in the Mortandad Canyon groundwater work plan.

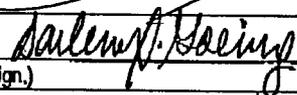
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8/24/04
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NMED Acknowledgement: Darlene Goering
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