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MEMORANDUM

TO: John Young
Neelam Dhawan

FROM: Kirby Olson

RE: **Site Visit Review for PRS 06-003(g) at Los Alamos National Lab**

DATE: April 26, 2001

This morning I visited PRS 06-003(g) at LANL. This PRS was described in the RFI as barren of vegetation and having a sooty appearance; this description raised some concerns that there might be residual ecological impacts to the site. We located the PRS by its proximity to an existing building across the street and the presence of concrete footings from the former building foundation. The area is not barren; it contains nominally the same substantial vegetative cover as the surrounding PRSs and the areas between them. Although the vegetation all over the site is still partially dormant, enough greening has occurred that the grasses and forbs at this portion of the site are clearly alive. Much of the grass has established itself enough to form tufts, and two small Ponderosas have sprouted at the PRS as well. The soil at one side of the former building foundation has a slightly darker color than the brown of the surrounding soil, but shows no visible signs of contamination such as oiliness, odor, or a sooty appearance. The slightly darker area of soil is located at the base of a juniper that burned on one side during the Cerro Grande fire, which may well be the reason for the darker appearance. This PRS was reseeded two years ago by LANL; the vegetation has clearly become established and the current appearance of the site doesn't support the same concerns as the previous description in the RFI. Based on this site visit, I no longer have concerns about the appearance or vegetative cover at this PRS.

Cc:



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