



State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
DOE OVERSIGHT BUREAU
 P.O. Box 1663, MS/J-993
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Barbara -
Ronk -
Kui D -
Stu *NO*
MARK E. WEIDLER
 SECRETARY

GARY E. JOHNSON
 GOVERNOR

21 May 1996

EDGAR T. THORNTON, III
 DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr. Court Fesmire, LAAO AIP
 Point of Contact
 Department of Energy
 Los Alamos Area Office
 MS A316
 Los Alamos, NM 87544

SUBJECT: Recommendations concerning the plugging of ground-water monitoring wells and boreholes, at Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Fesmire:

It has come to our attention that two Environmental Restoration (ER) ground-water (canyon alluvium) monitoring wells (well designations unknown) located in Pajarito Canyon at Tech Area (TA) 18 and one borehole (LADP-4) at TA-21 have been plugged. As part of DOE OB's technical oversight of the ER Project and other environmental projects, we encourage that LANL contact DOE OB prior to plugging of any ground-water monitoring wells or borehole (dry) penetrations greater than 100 ft in depth. For example, Pajarito Canyon monitoring wells could have been useful in monitoring future spills, contaminant plumes, developing potentiometric maps, tracer tests, etc., and LADP-4 could have been re-entered and drilled approximately 400 ft deeper to the regional aquifer, which would have been very cost effective considering the high cost of drilling. The installation of LADP-4 to the regional aquifer could have been included in DOE's Groundwater Protection Management Program Plan.

If there are any questions concerning this matter please contact Michael Dale at 672-0449.

Sincerely,

Stephen Janicak

Steve Janicak, NMED, DOE OB, LANL POC
 New Mexico Environment Department

SY:mrđ

- cc: Neil Weber, NMED, Chief, DOE Oversight Bureau
 Benito Garcia, NMED, Chief, HRMB
 Jim Piatt, NMED, Chief, SWQB
 Marcy Leavitt, NMED, Chief, GWQB
 Mat Johansen, DOE LAAO, MS A316 Bob Simeone, DOE LAAO, MS A316
 Bonnie Koch, DOE LAAO, MS A316
 Everett Trollinger, DOE LAAO, MS A316
 Mike Gilgosh, DOE LAAO, MS A316
 Joseph Mose, DOE LAAO, MS A316



1495

FILE: HSWA LANL G/M/S FILE: FROM RE: '96
 TRACK: LANL, 5/21/96, N/A, DOE, DOE OB, RE, HSWA

TA18

JK