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Date: December 3, 1996
Refer to: EM/ER:96-585

Mr. Dennis McQuillan, Program Manager
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SUBJECT: RESULTS OF MEETING REGARDING CORRECTIVE ACTION REPORT FOR PRS 18-003(d)

On Thursday, October 24, 1996, representatives of the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Water Quality and Hydrology Group (ESH-18) (Alex Puglisi) and of ICF-Kaiser (Merlin Wheeler and Catherine Goetz who support Field Unit 2 of the Environmental Restoration Project), met with you and other members of the New Mexico Environment Department. The subject of the meeting was the Corrective Action Report for Potential Release Site (PRS) 18-003(d) (septic system) that the Laboratory submitted to your office on June 25, 1996. At that meeting, you provided a draft (dated September 24, 1996) of your concerns regarding the report. We have since received the final version of that draft, dated October 23, 1996. This letter is to document our understanding of the agreements reached at that meeting regarding modifications to the planned activities.

1. Modification of Corrective Action Report

The report will be revised and reissued to reflect the changes agreed upon in this letter.

2. Additional Monitoring Wells

In the Corrective Action Report, the Laboratory asserted that the source of 1,2-dichloroethane detected in groundwater at the site was solvent discharges to the septic system. There are no known potential nearby sources for the 1,2-dichloroethane other than the septic system. However, there are uncertainties regarding chemicals actually disposed of through that system and the possible chemical degradation processes. As a result, the septic system cannot be conclusively shown to be the actual source of the 1,2-dichloroethane. Therefore, the Laboratory will add an upgradient well, designated MW-15, approximately 50 ft west-northwest of the former location of temporary Well 18-1195. This well will monitor the possible transport of 1,2-dichloroethane from upgradient sources.

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A second well, designated MW-16, will be installed approximately 20 ft south of the septic tank at the south end of the drainfield. This well will provide indication of any movement of contaminants in that direction. Gradients at the site are expected to change seasonally, and this well may occasionally be downgradient from the drainfield.

These two additional wells will be sampled in the same manner proposed for the other monitoring wells, including both soil samples above the water table and water samples from the groundwater.

3. Changes in Proposed Well Locations

In the Corrective Action Report, we proposed drilling MW-12 approximately 50 ft east of the eastern boundary of the drainfield. The location of that well will be moved approximately 25 ft further east. It is intended that MW-13 will be placed immediately adjacent to the drainfield, in a downgradient location. The location for that well will be determined after the other four wells are completed, and water levels have stabilized sufficient for a measurement of water level elevations. These elevations will be used to establish the local groundwater gradient.

4. Screened Interval

The temporary wells initially constructed at the site encountered groundwater at a depth of approximately 6 ft. In the Corrective Action Report, we proposed screening the wells over the full thickness of the alluvial aquifer. Instead, the screened interval will begin at approximately a 5-ft depth and will extend to the base of the aquifer. This will allow for seasonal variations in depth to water and will provide at least 1 ft of screen above the previously recorded water level. We require approximately 5 ft between the ground surface and the top of the screened interval to ensure a proper seal, using bentonite and cement grout.

5. Proposed Analyses

All analyses proposed in the Corrective Action Report will be implemented. In addition, groundwater samples will be analyzed for chloride. Samples analyzed for metals and general minerals will be filtered; all others will be non-filtered.

The analyses will be conducted quarterly (every three months) up to two years. However, after the second round of sampling, we will submit a data summary and will propose possible changes in the analyses that will be conducted for the remaining six quarters or cessation of sampling if no contamination is detected.

6. Water Level Measurements

After well completion, the elevation of the top of each well casing will be determined by survey. Depth to water and water level elevations will be determined before each sampling event.

If you have any further questions regarding this specific Corrective Action Report for PRS 18-003(d), or if your interpretation of these meeting notes does not reflect what was agreed upon, please contact Merlin Wheeler of ICF-Kaiser at (505) 661-5224 or Alex Puglisi of the Laboratory's Group ESH-18 at (505) 667-4882.

If you have any questions pertaining to future deliveries of corrective action reports and the programs coordination of those activities and deliveries, please Dave McInroy at (505) 667-0819 or Bonnie Koch at (505) 665-7202.

Sincerely,

Jorg Jansen, Program Manager
LANL/ER Project

Sincerely,

Theodore J. Taylor, Program Manager
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