Department of Energy
Field Office, Albuquerque
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

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MAR 15 1993

Mr. William K. Honker, Chief
RCRA Permits Branch
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

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TA-21

Dear Mr. Honker:

This letter is intended to formally clarify two issues related to the initiation of sampling of DP Spring at Los Alamos National Laboratory, as part of the Technical Area (TA) 21 Operable Unit (OU) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Field Investigation (RFI), Activity Data Sheet 1106, described in the work plan previously approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6. The referenced sampling is described in work plan Section 12.6, entitled "Transient Groundwater Emergence Sampling Plan." These actions already have been discussed informally with Barbara Driscoll of your office and with the New Mexico Environment Department.

Issue 1. Frequency of sampling. The approved RFI work plan for TA-21 calls for monthly sampling of DP Spring for one year, once RFI sampling is initiated. DP Spring is located within a rugged, boulder-strewn canyon which accumulates substantial depths of snow in the winter months. The spring issues from a point on a near-vertical canyon wall which is subject to accumulations of ice and snow. The emergence point is approximately 40 feet above the canyon floor. For safety reasons, monthly sampling of this spring (as stated in the approved RFI work plan) is not practical during winter months. Extended sampling of the spring at such short intervals also is not crucial to the goals of the RFI, as stated in the work plan. Therefore, we propose instead that sampling on a quarterly basis for the full suite of analytes be instituted, beginning as soon as feasible in the spring of 1993. Monthly sampling for additional analytes will be conducted when practical (see next item).

Issue 2. Analyte list. The enclosed list indicates proposed analytes for regular quarterly and (when feasible) monthly samples. The list also proposes that certain non-standard analytes be dropped from regular sampling if they are not detected in the first few sampling rounds, or are otherwise judged to be uninformative. As stated above, this action will in no way impair the goals of the investigation as stated in the RFI work plan.

We look forward to timely response from your office so that sampling of DP Spring can proceed as planned in 1993.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at FTS 8-505-665-5027, or have your staff contact Steve Slaten of my staff at FTS 8-505-665-5050.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Vozella

Joseph C. Vozella, Acting Chief
Environment, Safety and Health Branch

LESH:6SS-092

Enclosure:
Revised analyte suite for
TA-21 seeps and springs

cc w/enclosure:
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cc w/o enclosure:
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MS-M992
CRM-4, LANL, MS-A150
RPF, LANL, MS-M707

ATTACHMENT. **Revised analytical suite for DP-Spring Sampling. See footnotes 1-8 for detail. This table is to replace OU 1106 work plan Tables 12.5-VI and 12.6-I.**

Major Anions
Chloride (5)
Sulfate (5)
Fluoride (5)
Nitrate (5)
Nitrite (5)
Phosphate

Major Cations
Ammonium
Calcium (3)
Magnesium (3)
Potassium (3)
Sodium (3)

Radionuclides
Gross alpha
Gross beta
Radium-226 (4)
Thorium-230 (4)
Cesium-137
Strontium-90
Isotopic uranium
Isotopic plutonium
Tritium (low-level) (2,4)

Other Parameters
Volatile organics (7)
Semivolatile organics (8)
Silica (4)
Dissolved organic carbon (4)

Field Measured Parameters
Temperature (2,4)
pH (2,4)
Specific conductance (2,4)
Alkalinity (2,4)
Dissolved oxygen (2,4)

Minor and Trace Constituents
Aluminum(3)
Antimony (3,4)
Arsenic (3,4)
Barium (3)
Beryllium (3)
Boron
Bromide (4)
Cadmium (3,4)
Chlorate (4)
Chromium (3)
Cobalt (3,4)
Copper (3,4)

Cyanide (4)
Iron (3)
Lead (3)
Lithium (3)
Manganese (3)
Mercury
Molybdenum (3)
Nickel (3)
Selenium (3)
Silver (3,4)
Strontium (3)
Thallium (3,4)
Vanadium (3,4)
Zinc (3)

Environmental Isotopes
Hydrogen/deuterium (4)
Oxygen-16/oxygen-18 (4)
Tritium (low-level) (2,4)

FOOTNOTES FOR ATTACHMENT TABLE

1) All measurements to be made quarterly, unless otherwise noted.

2) Measured monthly (when feasible) during the first year of investigation.

3) To be measured by EPA procedure SW-6010.

4) These measurements are not required routinely for water chemistry evaluation. If these measurements are not found to indicate contamination after several regular sampling rounds, or are otherwise judged to uninformative, they may be dropped from the regular analytical suite.

5) To be measured by EPA method 300.

6) If not denoted above, the analytical methods to be used will be those specified in the approved OU 1106 RFI work plan.

7) To be measured by EPA method SW-8240.

8) To be measured by EPA method SW-8270.