



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

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

Stu -
Ken D.
Duplicates

MARK E. WEIDLER
SECRETARY

15 August 1997

HSWA LANL 6/11/97

Mr. Mat Johansen, AIP POC
U.S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
528 35th Street, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

RECEIVED
AUG 26 1997
NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Recommendations concerning precipitation and surface-water monitoring at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

Dear Mr. Johansen:

The Department of Energy Oversight Bureau (DOE OB) has evaluated some of LANL's recent rain-gage data as displayed on the Internet. After a careful review, it appears that the data may be erroneous or inaccurate due to the fact that the real-time rainfall start-times recorded by the DOE OB are off or late by about one (1) hour from the LANL Internet-recording times. It may be that the gages were not adjusted for daylight savings time during the spring. If our assumption is correct, we recommend that the gages be adjusted to reflect each daylight savings time change in order to maintain accurate records.

The DOE OB also recommends that LANL install two rain gages at or near the townsite mesa-top area (e.g, McDonalds). The rationale behind this recommendation is that the rainfall distributions across the laboratory vary widely and there are insufficient data coverage for the townsite area. We further recommend two additional surface-water gaging stations in DP Canyon; one located above PRS 21-011(k) or just north of the DP Tank Farm and one at the Los Alamos Canyon confluence. The rationale behind this recommendation is as follows: 1) the impervious area of the townsite causes excessive or abnormally high runoff, and 2) our observations over the past 5 years show that the bulk of storm-water runoff which enters Los Alamos Canyon (and ultimately the Rio Grande) is derived from DP Canyon, which drains a large portion of the townsite area.

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Information/data collected from these additional gages will aid in the characterization, monitoring and/or modeling of rainfall/runoff relationships and contaminant transport.

Please contact Alice Mayer at 672-0447 or Michael Dale at 672-0449 if any questions arise.

Sincerely,



Steve Yanicak, NMED, DOE Oversight Bureau, LANL POC
New Mexico Environment Department

SY:am

cc: Ed Kelley, NMED, Chief, SWQB
Glen Saums, NMED, Program Manager, SWQB
John Parker, NMED, Chief, DOE OB
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