

TP 21

Darlene Goering

From: Michael Dale [mdale@lanl.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 03, 2004 4:23 PM
To: Kathryn Chamberlain
Cc: syanicak@lanl.gov; john_young@nmenv.state.nm.us; darlene_goering@nmenv.state.nm.us
Subject: Fwd: Re: MDA B Review

Katie, the material below is a bit sloppy/rough but this is the best that I can offer.

Preliminary review comments specific to LANL's Investigation Work Plan for Material Disposal Area B at Technical Area B, Solid Waste Management Unit 21-015:

General Comments -

1. The document neglects to mention the fact that the asphalt pad covering the site may be acting as a mechanism for the production of water. Not unlike MDA AB at Technical Area 49, the lack of evapotranspiration at the site may be producing and potentially transporting, through gravity flow and capillary forces, contaminated water away from the site. This condition, if it exists, is a major component of the hydro-contaminant conceptual model for the site, and therefore, needs to be incorporated into the investigation plan. It is recommended that at least one or two of the exploratory trenches be placed across areas that show topographic lows as indicated by geophysics and that a contingency plan be developed so as to address the interception of water during the trenching process such as characterization of the water, etc.
2. Some of their maps appear to be inaccurate. For example, check out the boundary delineation on Figure B-26 should it not extend to near MDA V? or look at Appendix B, page B-3, B-2.2.2, first paragraph, second sentence that talks about Figure B-6 being related to trench locations, etc. but if you look at Figure B-6, it illustrates runoff from the site, not trenching locations.
3. Historical borehole DPS-12 had a show of water (see page B032), probably fracture-filled water. I do not trust moisture data from cores collected in the tuff, especially the upper units. The dry matrix surrounding the water-filled fractures tend to absorb the fluids/water rendering a much lower fluid saturation content.
4. I could not believe that for the 700 feet of core collected via the drilling/coring of the seven 100' angled boreholes during the 1998 investigation that they **did not** bias more of the sample selection at areas suspected of transmitting fluids and/or contaminants such as at fractures. On average, there were about seven samples selected from the 100' of core from each borehole, and of the approximately **70 samples**, only **THREE** were derived from locations described as being fractured. As you well now, the upper tuff units will probably only transmit fluids/gases via fractures or along cooling units, and why some of these LANL investigators cannot understand this is beyond me.

This is the best that I can do for now - sorry.



Michael R. Dale, NMED DOE OB

Date: Fri, 03 Sep 2004 13:38:23 -0600
To: "Kathryn Chamberlain" <kathryn_chamberlain@nmenv.state.nm.us>
From: Michael Dale <mdale@lanl.gov>
Subject: Re: MDA B Review
Cc:
syanicak@lanl.gov,john_young@nmenv.state.nm.us,darlene_goering@nmenv.state.nm.us

Katie -

I was on a roll concerning my review and follow-up comments concerning this MDA but was pulled off unexpectedly. Nevertheless, I will send you what I have later today - it's very rough so don't laugh. Take care and have a good weekend.

Michael

At 09:40 AM 9/3/2004 -0600, you wrote:

Hi Michael,

We have written the first draft of comments for the MDA B work plan. I was wondering if you have had a chance to review it and whether you have any comments you would like us to take a look at or incorporate with our own. You can drop me an email or email the comments if you have them, or just give Darlene or myself a call.

Thanks,

Katie

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