

chamberlain, kathryn, NMENV

From: Ron Rager [rrager@lanl.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2007 9:40 AM
To: chamberlain, kathryn, NMENV
Cc: allanc@lanl.gov
Subject: TC with NMED - Abandonment of borehole at Location ID 21-02523 at MDA V

Katie,

As we discussed, LANL wishes to abandon the borehole at Location ID 21-02523. The borehole was drilled starting in August 1994 and completed in May of 1995. The borehole was originally advanced using hollow stem augers to depth 320 feet. The borehole was completed to 660 feet deep using Odex casing advance - down hole air rotary drilling methods. Currently the borehole has 8-inch steel casing to 320 feet. We sounded the borehole in August 2006 with a tape measure and weight. As near as we can tell from the sounding, the borehole has caved to the bottom of the casing at approximately 320 feet. When the sounding weight was retrieved, soil/tuff was noted clinging to the weight. We did not attempt to open the hole or put drilling tools into the hole.

We feel the borehole has become a liability at this time. Because of the difficulty of trying to redrill and maintain an old and previously caved borehole, its usefulness is in doubt. Reuse would require redrilling using similar Odex techniques and require a reduced casing size to 5 or 6-inch diameter to fit inside the existing 8-inch casing. Obtaining new data could be marginalized, for example obtaining vapor samples is unlikely due to poor sidewall integrity from the caving and redrilling.

If a new deeper exploratory boring is required to answer questions regarding the vadose zone below the Cerro Toledo, LANL would prefer to advance a new borehole near Location ID 21-24524 (depth 380 feet - 2005-2006 investigation).

If you have any questions, please call me.

Regards,

Ron

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