

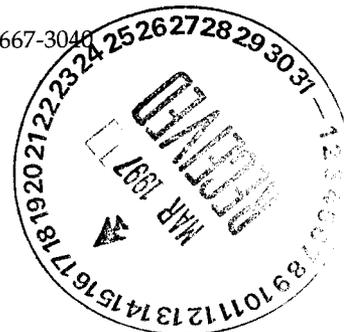
Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

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Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Date: March 12, 1997
In Reply Refer To: ESH-18/WQ&H:97-0085
Mail Stop: K497
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Ms. Teri Davis
LANL Facility Manager
New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous & Radioactive Waste Bureau
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502



SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON QUARTERLY SAMPLING OF WELLS AT TA-49

Dear Ms. Davis:

This letter summarizes the status of the ongoing groundwater sampling activities at TA-49, Los Alamos National Laboratory. The quarterly sampling of the DT-series test wells and Core Hole 2 was requested in an August 22, 1996 NMED letter from Ms. Barbara Hoditschek to Mr. Ted Taylor, Department of Energy.

Status of Sampling

As shown in Table 1, we are on-schedule with the quarterly sampling, except for well DT-5A. Due to electrical hazards, we were unable to perform the initial round of sampling of DT-5A during the first quarter. To adjust for this delay, our plans are to conduct an extra round of sampling of DT-5A during the final quarter of testing.

Core Hole 2 was dry during the first two quarters. A field check on March 4, 1997, however, showed approximately 28 ft of water in the core hole. It appears reasonable that snowmelt has supplied the water. A sample was bailed from Core Hole 2 during the third quarter.

The NMED DOE Oversight Bureau has collected a split sample from each of the wells, including Core Hole 2.

Table 1. TA-49 Sampling Dates

Station	First Quarter (July - Sept. 1996)	Second Quarter (Oct. - Dec. 1996)	Third Quarter (Jan. - Mar. 1997)
DT-5A	Pump Inoperable	11 Nov. 1996	7 Mar. 1997
DT-9	18 Sept. 1996	5 Dec. 1996	Pending
DT-10	19 Sept. 1996	6 Dec. 1996	Pending
Core Hole 2	Dry	Dry	11 Mar. 1997



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Summary of Analytical Results

All of the water samples submitted to the analytical laboratory are unfiltered. Full suite testing of the water samples is being performed (radionuclides, metals, VOC organics, SVOC organics, PCBs, high explosives, general chemistry).

We have received analytical results from the first two quarters of sampling. The data have not been validated or formally reviewed, so the following highlights of the data received to date are considered preliminary:

- Lead and antimony concentrations appear to be low in all of the DT wells (typically low parts per billion range)
- None of the organic compounds detected in the 1993 Environmental Surveillance Program testing of the DT wells appear to be present in the recent samples, with the possible exception of acetone being present at relatively low concentrations.
- No high explosives appear to have been detected in the DT wells.
- Tritium concentrations in the DT wells appear to be less than 1 pCi/L, using trace level analytical techniques.
- Gross alpha and beta levels in the DT wells appear to be consistent with previous Environmental Surveillance results (gross alpha typically less than 3 pCi/L and gross beta typically less than 7 pCi/L).

As additional sampling is conducted, we will continue to provide advance notification to the NMED DOE Oversight Bureau. If you should have any questions or comments please contact me at (505) 667-3040.

Sincerely,



Bruce Gallaher
Water Quality and Hydrology Group

Ms. Teri Davis
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