

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION
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4012

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57911

Memo from John Nyham (LAWL) & Charlie Wilson (PMIC)

dated April 6, 1998

subject: Vital information on CH-2

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	
To	Marcy Backsen	From	Charlie Wilson
Co./Dept.		Co	
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #	665-3285	Fax #	662-1395

Received by ERIC/PMIC
 JUN 04 1998
 JMN

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This is what I found out from Bill Purtymun on April 2-3, 1998) about CH-2:

1. All of CH-2 was drilled with air, not water in 1959. Thus, in Table IX-A of LA-12883-MS (Purtymun's big 3-volume set), when it says "Dry" under the column labeled as "Water Level Completion (ft)", it means that the hole was drilled with air, not water. **Notice: NO DRILLING MUD YET!**
2. Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation did run electrical, radioactivity, temperature, and sonic logs and they did try to fill the uncased CH-2 with water as part of this process. However, no matter how much water they hauled from the filling station at S Site for several days, they could not fill the top 150 foot of the hole. They "lost circulation" into a void space located somewhere in the bottom of the hole could only log the bottom 350 foot of CH-2 because of this.
3. However, the USGS guys in Albuquerque (Mr. Hale) still wanted this contractor to log the hole, so they started adding stuff to the hole to seal off the void space, so they could log the top 150 foot of the hole. The "stuff" they used was: **DRILLING MUD (sodium saturated bentonite)**, peanut shells, cotton seed hulls, and a small amount of recirculated geologic materials that came out of the bottom of the hole. This effort to plug the hole failed completely.
4. They put a 20-ft length of pipe with slots cut in it at the bottom of the hole, and cased the remainder of the hole with unslotted pipe above this.
5. When the asphalt pad and temporary cover was added to Area 2, an extension was put on the casing. Bill says that he thinks that the weld at the extension-old casing interface may have failed, making the influx of snowmelt even worse into CH-2.

HOPE THIS HELPS - we owe Purtymun a big one here, in view of all the wrong information floating around.