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GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**DOE OVERSIGHT BUREAU**  
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August 29, 1996

Matt Johansen, LAAO AIP  
Point of Contact  
Department of Energy  
Los Alamos Area Office  
MS A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Re: Request for stormwater data collected at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Johansen:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Department of Energy Oversight Bureau (DOE OB) is currently reviewing the RFI report for channels from Material Disposal Areas (MDAs) G, H, J and L in Technical Area (TA) - 54. The report addresses the levels of contamination found in the sediments of selected fluvial channels that drain TA-54.

As referenced in the report, (Longmire et al. 1995, 1266), the bulk of some contaminants transported during storm events are adsorbed to fines and/or colloids. It is likely that during stormwater runoff, much of this material is transported off-site with only a relatively small portion deposited in the channel sediments. The channel sediments themselves are scoured on a seasonal basis from heavy thunderstorm runoff, further depleting the proportion of fines remaining, and therefore only represent residual contamination.

The RFI report does not include any stormwater monitoring data from the TA-54 Area. To better evaluate the complete system and contaminant transport mechanisms, the DOE OB is requesting all stormwater data collected from MDAs G, H, J, and L in TA-54.

Stormwater runoff data is an essential component of any assessment of the potential adverse impacts to human health or the environment from contaminant migration from MDAs by way of surface sediment transport. Of particular value is



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Matt Johansen  
August 29, 1996  
Page 2 of 2

stormwater data that would indicate the dissolved and also the suspended sediment contributions to the total radioisotopic and metal contaminant transport from MDAs. Data resulting from a comprehensive stormwater-quality monitoring program could also be used to demonstrate compliance with State of New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Regulations, Standards, and the Hazardous Waste Act.

With any stormwater data submittal, please indicate the method of collection (e.g. automated ISCO, single stage sampler), and whether sample is a grab or composite sample. Indicate the type of analysis performed (e.g. dissolved, total metals), or if the sample media is residue (i.e. filterable suspended solids). Also, please provide any available hydro graphs of the flow event, indicating at which point the sample was collected, duration of the event and total flow, if available. Also the date and time of collection and date and time of sample analysis would be very helpful if available.

Please contact Ralph Ford-Schmid at 827-1536 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Steve Yanicak,  
Point of Contact, LANL  
NMED, DOE OB

SY: rfs

cc: Neil Weber, Chief, NMED, DOE OB  
John Parker, Program Manager, NMED, DOE OB  
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