

TA72

Young, John, NMENV

From: Christina B. Behr-Andres [behr-andres@lanl.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2006 10:10 PM
To: Young, John, NMENV
Subject: Re: Status of 9/25/06 request

John, I asked someone to provide that info to you and will follow up on where they are with that. Also working on getting similar info together on other recent notifications. Please bear with us as we work to respond to these requests. Thanks. Tina

> Tina,
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>
> I'm following up regarding the information I requested regarding the
> toluene, mercury data packages. Is the information NMED requested
> available?
>
> The email is follows in blue text.
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> Tina et al.,
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>
> Thank you for the clarification. Would you please provide the "data
> review and validation" packages/equivalents similar to those
> historically sent to LANS by Analytical Quality Associates, Inc. for
> each of the data sets related to the samples you listed in the first
> emails regarding the mercury, PCB and toluene standard exceedances?
> Also include the "analysis data package"/equivalents supplied to you
> by your contract and in-house analytical laboratories. These data
> packages list the results of the analyses and nothing else. We expect
> this request to comprise a few dozen pages at most (I stress the fact
> that we don't want the spectra, calibration information etc. that
> equates to thousands of pages and multi-megabyte pdf files).
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> I expect to be out of the office beginning tomorrow (9/27) for 3 weeks.
> While I'm out, please contact David Cobrain and James Bearzi regarding
> this matter.
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> Thank you and have a wonderful day!
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>
> john

> -----Original Message-----
>
> From: Christina B. Behr-Andres [mailto:behr-andres@lanl.gov]
>
> Sent: Monday, September 25, 2006 8:39 PM
>
> To: Young, John, NMENV
>
> Cc: Bearzi, James, NMENV; Cobrain, Dave, NMENV; dewart@lanl.gov;



> akphelps@lanl.gov; camantong@lanl.gov; elvis@lanl.gov
>
> Subject: RE: Notification of Toluene in LAOI-7
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>
> John, thanks for the response and suggestions on possible sources.
> With respect to the statement "[In] accordance with the protocols we
> have established...", I am referring to the agreement we reached in
> discussion in mid July when Dave McInroy and I met with you, James and
> David, and discussed how we could get issues we were working to your
> attention more promptly. Part of that agreement was that we would
> provide the preliminary information we had, which would be incomplete,
> given that we could be sure that it would not be released until we had
> more information about the validity of the data, possible sources, etc.
> Thanks. Tina
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>> Tina-
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>> It's not necessarily surprising that both mercury and toluene have
>
>> been identified in groundwater samples "down stream" of TA-21
>
>> discharges and the Omega West Reactor site.
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>> TA-2/Omega West Reactor site is also the former location of a
>
>> mercury-cooled reactor and may potentially be a source for mercury.
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>> In addition, mercury was documented in TA-21 effluent discharges as
>
>> far back as 1972, if not earlier (as I recollect, take a look at the
>
>> early Environmental Surveillance Reports and the TA-45 FUSRAP report,
>
>> maybe an old Purtymun report).
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>> Chromium may also be an issue in LA Canyon because of the former
>
>> cooling towers located at TA-2/Omega West Reactor site.
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>> Toluene detections can't be so readily dismissed as a result of
>
>> "low-level contamination during sampling and analysis." It is a
>
>> constituent found in liquid scintillation cocktails and has also been
>
>> used extensively as a solvent used throughout the lab. Needless to
>
>> say, I would expect to see toluene in groundwater at some locations
>
>> around the lab.
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>> In addition, your emails end with the statement "[In] accordance with
>
>> the protocols we have established..." Could you please clarify? We
>
>> are not aware of any protocols that have been established between
>> LANS
>
>
>> and NMED regarding the reporting and release of data.
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>> Respectfully,
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>> John
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>> -----Original Message-----
>
>> From: Christina B. Behr-Andres [mailto:behr-andres@lanl.gov]
>
>> Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2006 9:54 PM
>
>> To: Bearzi, James, NMENV; Young, John, NMENV; Cobrain, Dave, NMENV
>
>> Cc: dewart@lanl.gov; akphelps@lanl.gov; camangeng@lanl.gov;
>
>> elvis@lanl.gov
>
>> Subject: Notification of Toluene in LAOI-7
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>
>> James, David, John:
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>> This message is to notify you that LANL staff has just discovered
>
>> concentrations of toluene in groundwater samples from well LAOI-7
>
>> which samples intermediate groundwater in Los Alamos Canyon. The
>
>> detection limit is 0.25 ug/L and the results are about 70 ug/L, about
>
>> 9% of the NM Groundwater Limit of 750 ug/L. At this time we do not
>
>> know the source of the constituent; the results have been validated
>
>> and toluene was not detected in the accompanying field trip blank.
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>> Toluene has not often been detected in our groundwater samples at
>> this
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>
>> level, though it is commonly found in samples as a result of
>> low-level
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>
>> contamination during sampling or analysis.
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>> We will contact you again when we have more information about this

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