

## SUMMARY OF NEW LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY GROUNDWATER DATA LOADED IN MAY 2012

### INTRODUCTION

This report provides preliminary information to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) concerning recent groundwater monitoring data obtained by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) under its interim monitoring plan and contains results for chemical constituents that meet the seven screening criteria laid out in the Compliance Order on Consent (Consent Order). The report covers groundwater samples taken from wells or springs (listed in the accompanying table) that provide surveillance of the groundwater zones indicated in the table.

The report includes one table, *Table 1: NMED 5-12 Groundwater Report*. This table contains some values that are reported when they are detected for the first time since June 14, 2007, or are greater than other data collected since that time (as specified in the Consent Order). These reported data may be similar to data gathered before June 14, 2007.

This table includes the following:

- Additional comments on results that appear to be exceptional or based on consideration of monitoring data acquired before the current result (using statistics described below)
- Supplemental information summarizing monitoring results obtained before the current result
- Sampling date, name of the well or spring, location of the well or spring, depth of the screened interval, groundwater zone sampled, analytical result, detection limit, values for regulatory standards or screening levels, and analytical and secondary validation qualifiers. Additional information describing the locations and analytical data is also included. All data have been through secondary validation.

In accordance with the Consent Order, the screening levels used include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), the New Mexico groundwater standards, and the EPA Regional Screening Levels for tap water (for compounds having no other regulatory standard). The EPA Regional Screening Levels for tap water are either for cancer ( $10^{-6}$  excess risk) or noncancer risk values. The data were screened using 10 times the EPA's  $10^{-6}$  excess cancer risk values, to achieve  $10^{-5}$  excess cancer risk as indicated in Section VIII.A.1 of the Consent Order.

Background levels applied in Criteria 2 and 5 are the most recent NMED-approved 95% upper tolerance limits for background for each groundwater zone as set forth in the "Groundwater Background Investigation Report," prepared under Section IV.A.3.d of the Consent Order.

### DESCRIPTION OF TABLE

The table is divided into separate categories that correspond to the seven screening criteria in the Consent Order. Some data meet one or more than one criterion and appear in the table multiple times. The table also presents only the instances where the results exceed criteria; therefore, not all seven criteria may appear in the table.

The criteria are as follows:

- CA. The Respondents shall notify the Department orally within one business day after review of the analytical data if such data show detection of a contaminant in a well screen interval or spring at a concentration that exceeds either the NMWQCC water quality standard or the federal MCL if that contaminant has not previously exceeded such water quality standard or maximum contaminant level in such well screen interval or spring.
- C1. Detection of a contaminant that is an organic compound in a spring or screened interval of a well if that contaminant has not previously been detected in the spring or screened interval.
- C2. Detection of a contaminant that is a metal or other inorganic compound at a concentration above the background level in a spring or screened interval of a well if that contaminant has not previously exceeded the background level in the spring or screened interval.
- C3. Detection of a contaminant in a spring or screened interval of a well at a concentration that exceeds either one-half the New Mexico water quality standard or one-half the federal maximum contaminant level, or if there is no such standard for the contaminant, one-half the EPA Region 6 human health medium-specific screening level for tap water (now the EPA Regional Screening Levels for tap water), if that contaminant has not previously exceeded one-half such standard or screening level in the spring or screened interval.
- C4. Detection of perchlorate in a spring or screened interval of a well at a concentration of 2 µg/L or greater if perchlorate at such concentration has not previously been detected in the spring or screened interval.
- C5. Detection of a contaminant that is a metal or other inorganic compound in a spring or screened interval of a well at a concentration that exceeds 2 times the background level for the third consecutive sampling of the spring or screened interval.
- C6. Detection of a contaminant in a spring or screened interval of a well at a concentration that exceeds either one-half the New Mexico water quality standard or one-half the federal MCL, and that has increased for the third consecutive sampling of that spring or screened interval.

The next seven columns of the table give information on monitoring results obtained prior to the current result. The columns provide summary statistics for the samples collected since January 1, 2000, for the same analyte and field preparation (for example, filtered samples). The information includes the date of the first sampling event included in the statistics, the numbers of sampling events and samples analyzed, the number of detections, and the minimum, maximum, and median concentration for detections. This information indicates whether the new result is consistent with the range of earlier data.

The subsequent columns contain location and sampling information:

Hdr 1—canyon where monitoring location is found

Zone—groundwater zone sampled by monitoring location (such as alluvial spring)

Location—monitoring location name

Screen Depth—depth of top of well screen in feet (0 for springs, -1 if unknown)

Start Date—sample date

Fld QC Type Code—identifies regular samples (REG) or field duplicates (FD)

Fld Prep—identifies whether samples are filtered or unfiltered

Lab Sample Type Code—indicates whether result is a primary (customer) sample or reanalysis

Anyl Suite—analytical suite (such as volatile organic compounds) for analyzed compound

Analyte Desc—name of analyte

Analyte—chemical symbol for analyte or CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service) number for organic compounds

Std Result—analytical result in standard measurement units

Result/Median—ratio of the Std Result to the median of all detections since 2000

LVL Type/Risk Code—type of regulatory standard, screening level, or background value (indicating groundwater zone) used for comparison

Screen Level—value of the LVL Type/Risk Code

Exceedance Ratio—ratio of Std Result to LVL Type/Risk Code. In earlier versions of this report, the ratio was divided by the basis for comparison in the criterion, but that is no longer the case. For example, for a criterion (such as C3) that compares the value to one-half the standard, a value equal to a standard previously had an exceedance ratio of 2. The current report shows this ratio as 1.

Std Mdl—method detection limit in standard measurement units

Std UOM—standard units of measurement

Dilution Factor—amount by which the sample was diluted to measure the concentration

Lab Qual Code—analytical laboratory qualifiers indicating analytical quality of the sample

Concat Flag Code—secondary validation qualifier

Concat Reason Code—concatenated secondary validation codes explaining assignment of qualifiers

Anyl Meth Code—analytical method number

Lab Code—analytical laboratory name

Comment—comment on the analytical result





