



Buckman Direct Diversion Project

*A joint regional project of the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County to build a reliable and sustainable water supply.*

## MEMORANDUM

May 26, 2009

To: BDD Board

From: Rick Carpenter and Norm Gaume

Subject: Update and Report on Status of Water Quality-Related Work Efforts with DOE/LANL

DOE/LANL Negotiations Progress. We very much appreciate the BDD Board's direction and support regarding the BDD Board's effort to renew discussions regarding the Board's six requests for action. As a result of your support and that of members of the New Mexico congressional delegation and New Mexico legislators in response to our prior concern of stalled talks, recently we have reached potential breakthroughs in discussions with DOE and LANL officials. Our work has been intensive, four meetings in April and two in May, with follow-up work and communications in the interim periods. As of this date, details remain unresolved and no agreements have been drafted.

BDD representatives will continue to work with DOE/LANL, EPA, and the NMED to create mutually satisfactory responses to the BDD Board's request for DOE/LANL actions. Our agreed schedule includes a progress report to the BDD Board on the agreed details at the July 2009 BDD Board meeting.

New Regulatory Requirements. Additionally, we note the significant regulatory progress in 2009. The Environmental Protection Agency issued an NPDES permit to DOE/LANL requiring control of contamination and monitoring of LANL storm water runoff. This is the first permit of its kind. The New Mexico Environment Department recently required LANL to reduce migration of contaminated sediment down Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons and improve monitoring. We expect these to help the BDD reach its goal of preventing and properly monitoring migration of LANL contaminants to the Rio Grande.





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LANL has completed some of the specific improvements in Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons that are now required under the consent order. DOE and LANL will be extending invitations soon to the BDD Board to tour these improvements.

NNMCAB presentation. Rick Carpenter made a presentation to the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board at its May 14 meeting. Rick's PowerPoint presentation is attached for your information. The NNMCAB was very interested in the presentation and in the requests for its assistance. The BDD Project provided advance public notice of the presentation, which attracted some members of the public who only attended that portion of the NNMCAB's daylong meeting.

Early Notification System. Following authorization by the Pueblo of San Ildefonso, landowner, LANL has started design and construction of the early notification system. We have agreed that LANL will implement initial early notification of Los Alamos Canyon floods via improvements to the stream gage that measures flow in Los Alamos Canyon near its confluence with the Rio Grande. The initial improvements will be completed by the end of June 2009 for NMED's use in collecting Rio Grande water quality samples at Buckman. LANL has agreed to upgrade two additional stream gages, which measure the flows in Los Alamos Canyon and Pueblo Canyon upstream from their confluence. These gages are on DOE property.

Triennial Review. As authorized by the BDD Board at the May 2009 meeting, the BDD Board has informed NMED that it will participate in the Triennial Review process. The Board will file a request prior to the end of May to specify the calculation of a violation of the Rio Grande at Buckman segment specific standards for LANL radionuclides, as previously supported by the BDD Board. BDD representatives have learned that the NNSA has filed written objections to these segment specific standards in response to the August 2008 discussion draft.

Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information at this time.

c: George Rael, DOE  
Jon Goldstein, NMED

