

July 6, 1994

to: Arthur Pinchev, BBI  
Helen Zukin, BBI

re: Update on Well-water Sampling, Including New Wells

The results from the May round of well sampling are in. This was the round where I accompanied Rockwell's contractor and took split samples for independent analysis. Two new wells on Institute property (RD-56 and RD-57) received their first quarterly sampling. RD-56 tested positive for TCE (see attached figure.)

Of the new wells on Rockwell property, one tested positive for both tritium and TCE: RD-54A which is west of the sodium burn pit. Also in that area, RD-64 tested positive for toluene, a volatile organic compound, and RS-18 tested positive for both tritium and TCE. Of the new wells on Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy property, several near the Rockwell entrance tested positive for TCE and DCE.

The highest level of tritium contamination continues to be found in well RD-34A, below the RMDF. Rockwell's lab measured 3,430 picocuries per liter, my lab measured 4,000. I've analyzed the history of tritium in this well in a memo to Rockwell. I found that the total amount of tritium in the well is fairly constant, even though the measured concentration fluctuates. A copy of this memo is attached. Samples from a new, nearby well (RD-63, on Rockwell property) contained no tritium. This suggests that the tritium source is to the west (Bldg. 059?).

Finally, two wells below the RMDF (RD-34 and -63) tested positive for TCE. This confirms a TCE plume in groundwater. This plume is shown in the center of the attached figure, and is one of three identified plumes extending onto Institute property.

In August I will be taking samples, with Rockwell, of spring water on Institute property. If the new well above Campsite Area I (RD-59) is finished, we will also split groundwater samples there.

Figure. May 1994 Well Sampling Results

Key:  = Tritium detected  
 = TCE detected  
 = TCE plume

