Drilling Work Plan for Well R-63i

Primary Purpose	Well R-63i is being installed to satisfy a requirement made in the Approval with Modifications Technical Area 16 Well Network Evaluation and Recommendations from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous Waste Bureau (LANL 2012, 213573; NMED 2012, 520747). This letter required the installation of one new lower deep-intermediate groundwater monitoring well east of Material Disposal Area (MDA) P. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) proposes siting this well next to existing well R-63 (Figure 1). The primary purpose of R-63i is to monitor contaminant releases from the 260 Outfall and MDA P as well as recharge from Cañon de Valle. Water-level data from this location will also constrain the shape of the lower deep-intermediate aquifer and groundwater flow directions in this area. The depth to the top of intermediate-depth saturation at R-63i is expected to be approximately 809 ft with three additional likely groundwater producing intervals (994, 1074, and 1178 ft) based on observations made during the drilling of nearby well R-63. The target depth for the R-63i borehole is 1200 ft, about 55 ft above the regional aquifer. The depth and occurrence of groundwater is uncertain, and the target depth may be adjusted once the water depth and producing intervals are confirmed at this location. Figure 2 shows the predicted geology, expected groundwater-producing intervals, and proposed well design for well R-63i. The well is tentatively designed with one well screen placed near the depth of CdV-16-4ip screen 2 (projected to be 1095–1125 ft) in Puye Formation deposits. Final selection of well-screen length and position will be based on data obtained during drilling, including information from lithologic logs of cuttings, water-level measurements, video logs, geophysical logs, and driller's observations. A final well design will be based on hydrogeological conditions encountered during drilling, and a revised well design document will be submitted to NMED for approval before well construction begins.
Conceptual Model	The lower deep-intermediate aquifer associated with Cañon de Valle is currently monitored by screen 4 at R-25 and screen 2 at CdV-16-4ip, both of which will be abandoned. Therefore, the proposed well will act as the monitoring point for the lower deep-intermediate saturated zone in the vicinity of the 260 Outfall and MDA P.
Drilling Approach	Drilling will be conducted with methods selected to optimize the potential of completing the well without using drilling additives in, or immediately above, the target zone of saturation. A combination of open-hole and casing-advance methods will be employed. Each interval of open hole or casing advance will be optimized to meet well objectives. Casing will be used to protect open-hole intervals above to advance the borehole when open-hole drilling is not possible and to secure the borehole through unstable zones or through significant intervals of perched groundwater.
Potential Drilling Fluids, Composition, and Use	Fluids and additives that may be used to facilitate drilling will be consistent with those previously used in the drilling program at LANL and already characterized geochemically. Fluids and additives previously authorized for use by NMED include • potable municipal water supply to aid in the delivery of other drilling additives and cooling the drill bit; • QUIK-FOAM, a blend of alcohol ethoxy sulfates, used as a foaming agent; and • AQF-2, an anionic surfactant, used as a foaming agent. Complete records will be maintained detailing the type, amount, and volume of drilling fluid used, the depth at which drilling fluid is added to the borehole, the amount in storage in borehole, and the recovery volume of drilling fluid. No drilling fluids, except potable municipal water, will be used within 100 ft of the target aquifer. If the target aquifer cannot be reached without the addition of drilling fluids, the situation will be discussed with NMED. No chemicals, other than those listed above, will be added without NMED's approval.

Hydrogeologic and Geochemical Objectives	• The primary objective is to monitor water quality in the lower deep-intermediate zone of saturation downgradient of the 260 Outfall and MDA P at Technical Area 16 (TA-16). • A secondary objective is to establish water levels and gradients in the lower deep-intermediate saturated zone in this area.
Potential Groundwater Occurrence and Detection	*Potential Perched Water:* Based on drilling observations at well R-63 perched water is expected at this location. The observed depths of groundwater are 809–852, 994–1014 (estimated), 1074–1094 (estimated), and 1178–1200 (estimated) ft below ground surface (bgs). *Regional:* Drilling will terminate at 1200 ft bgs, approximately 55 ft above regional saturation. Methods to detect perched groundwater may include driller's observations, water-level measurements, borehole video, borehole geophysics, and monitoring for pressure responses in nearby wells.
Core Sampling	No core collection is planned.
Perched Groundwater Screening Sampling	Groundwater screening samples will not be collected during drilling because this well will be completed in the lower deep-intermediate zone of saturation, and samples from the upper deep-intermediate zone were collected during the drilling of R-63 (LANL 2011, 204541).
Perched Groundwater Characterization Sampling	Groundwater samples will be collected from the completed well between 10 d and 60 d after well development in accordance with the Compliance Order on Consent. These samples will be analyzed for the full suite of TA-16–related constituents, including tritium; metals/cations; general inorganic chemicals; volatile organic compounds; semivolatile organic compounds; high explosive compounds, including hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine and related degradation products; as well as stable isotopes. Subsequent groundwater samples will be collected in accordance with the requirements of the Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan (the Interim Plan).
Geophysical Testing	LANL's borehole video camera, natural gamma, and induction tools will be used in the open borehole if conditions allow. A full suite of geophysical logs will be run, if required, for proper placement of the screen. The logs will be collected by Schlumberger, Inc., and for open-hole conditions, will include accelerator porosity sonde (neutron porosity), array induction, combined magnetic resonance, natural and spectral gamma, and formation microimager logs. In cased portions of the borehole, neutron porosity, triple lithodensity, elemental capture, natural gamma, and spectral gamma logs will be collected. These logs will be used to characterize the hydraulic properties of saturated rocks in the regional aquifer. The geophysical logs also will be used to select the well-screen depths. The suite and timing of geophysical logging will depend on borehole conditions.
Well Completion Design	Figure 2 shows the proposed well design and predicted geology for well R-63i.

Well Development	The well may be developed by both mechanical and chemical means. Mechanical means include swabbing, bailing, and pumping. Chemical means include the use of additives to remove clays and/or chlorination to kill bacteria introduced during well completion. • After initial swabbing and bailing, a submersible pump will be used to complete the development process. • Water-quality parameters will be measured in a flow-through cell. The parameters to be monitored are pH, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, oxidation-reduction potential, and total organic carbon (TOC). • If LANL is unable to bring the water-quality parameters to within the limits specified below, the use of chemical well development may be discussed with NMED. No chemicals will be added without NMED's approval. Chemical means that may be used include sodium acid pyrophosphate and AQUACLEAR PFD to remove clays and/or chlorination. Well development will be considered complete when target water-quality parameters are met. The target water-quality parameters are turbidity <5 nephelometric turbidity units, TOC <2 ppm, and other parameters stable.
Hydraulic Testing	Hydraulic testing will be considered if a sufficiently robust zone within the aquifer is encountered. The most likely test will be a 24-h constant-rate pumping test.
Investigation-Derived Waste Management	Investigation-derived waste (IDW) will be managed in accordance with the requirements in P-409, Waste Management, and EP-DIR-SOP-10021, Characterization and Management of Environmental Programs Waste, available at http://www.lanl.gov/community-environment/environmental-stewardship/plans-procedures.php. This standard operating procedure incorporates the requirements of applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and NMED regulations, U.S. Department of Energy orders, and LANL requirements. The primary waste streams include drill cuttings, drilling water, development water, purge water, decontamination water, and contact waste. Drill cuttings will be managed in accordance with the NMED-approved Notice of Intent (NOI) Decision Tree for Land Application of IDW Solids from Construction of Wells and Boreholes (November 2007). Drilling, purge, and development waters will be managed in accordance with the NMED-approved NOI Decision Tree for Drilling, Development, Rehabilitation, and Sampling Purge Water (November 2006). Initially, drill cuttings and drilling water will be stored in lined pits. The cuttings may or may not contain residue of drilling/well completion additives (e.g., drilling foam and bentonite clay). The contents of the pits will be characterized with direct sampling following completion of drilling activities, and waste determinations will be made from validated data. If validated analytical data show these wastes cannot be land-applied, they will be removed from the pit, containerized, and placed in accumulation areas appropriate to the type of waste. Cuttings, drilling water, development water, and purge water that cannot be land-applied and are designated as hazardous waste will be sent to an authorized treatment, storage, or disposal facility within 90 d of containerization. Development water, purge water, and decontamination water will be containerized separately at their point of generation, placed in an accumulation area appropriate to the type of waste, and directly sampled. Contact waste will be containerized at the point of generation, placed in an appropriate accumulation area, and characterized using acceptable knowledge of the media with which it came in contact.
Schedule	Well R-63i is proposed for completion by September 30, 2013. This date assumes that additional funding will be available beginning April 1, 2013, to support the proposed completion date. Monitoring conducted after R-63i is installed will be implemented under the Interim Plan and will support investigations and corrective actions at TA-16.

REFERENCES

The following list includes all documents cited in this plan. Parenthetical information following each reference provides the author(s), publication date, and ER ID. This information is also included in text citations. ER IDs are assigned by the Environmental Programs Directorate's Records Processing Facility (RPF) and are used to locate the document at the RPF and, where applicable, in the master reference set.

Copies of the master reference set are maintained at the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau and the Directorate. The set was developed to ensure that the administrative authority has all material needed to review this document, and it is updated with every document submitted to the administrative authority. Documents previously submitted to the administrative authority are not included.

LANL (Los Alamos National Laboratory), July 2011. "Completion Report for Regional Well R-63," Los Alamos National Laboratory document LA-UR-11-3673, Los Alamos, New Mexico. (LANL 2011, 204541)

LANL (Los Alamos National Laboratory), March 2012. "Technical Area 16 Well Network Evaluation and Recommendations," Los Alamos National Laboratory document LA-UR-12-1082, Los Alamos, New Mexico. (LANL 2012, 213573)

NMED (New Mexico Environment Department), June 20, 2012. "Approval with Modifications, Technical Area 16 Well Network Evaluation and Recommendations," New Mexico Environment Department letter to P. Maggiore (DOE-LASO) and M.J. Graham (LANL) from J.E. Kieling (NMED-HWB), Santa Fe, New Mexico. (NMED 2012, 520747)

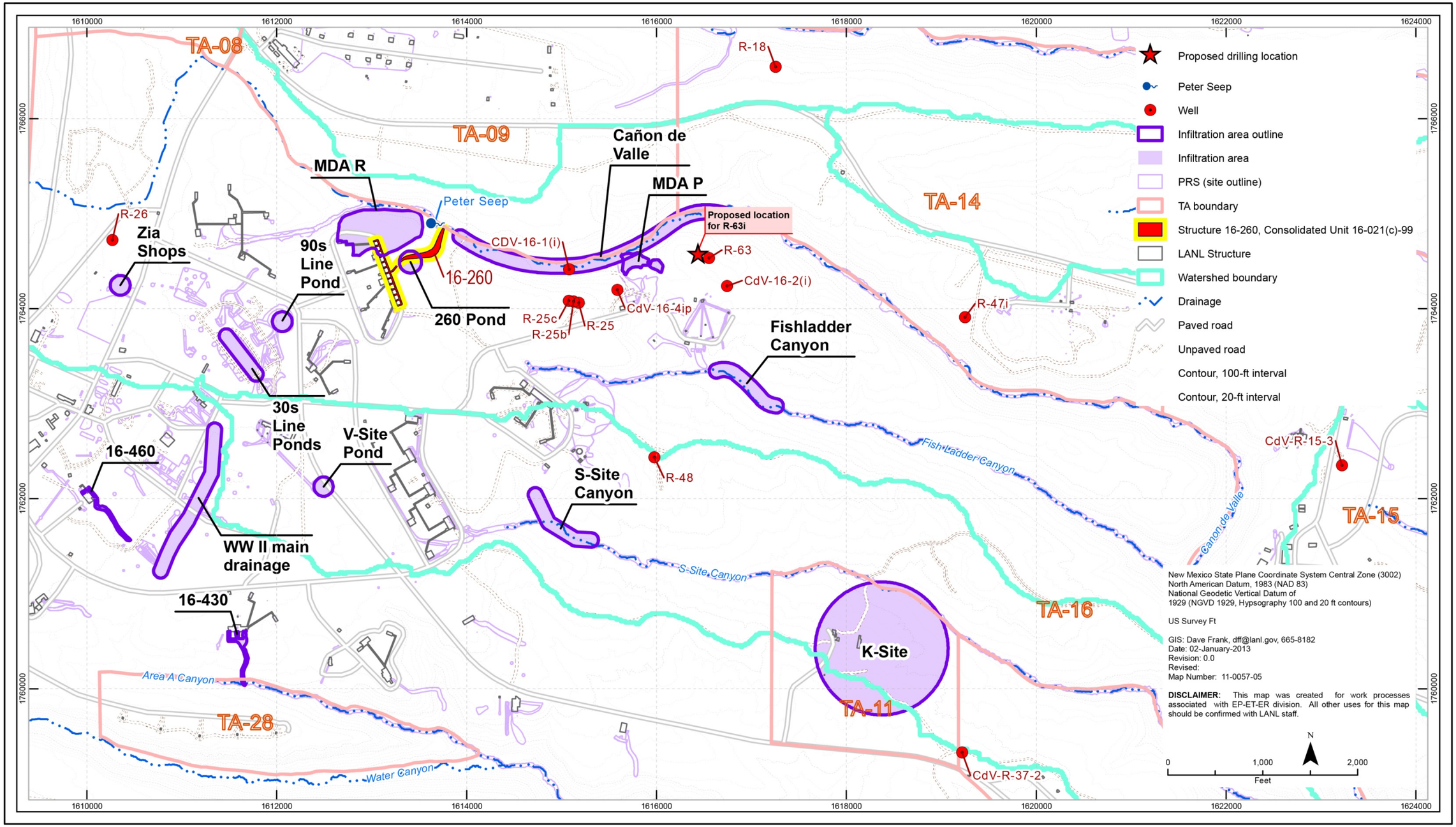
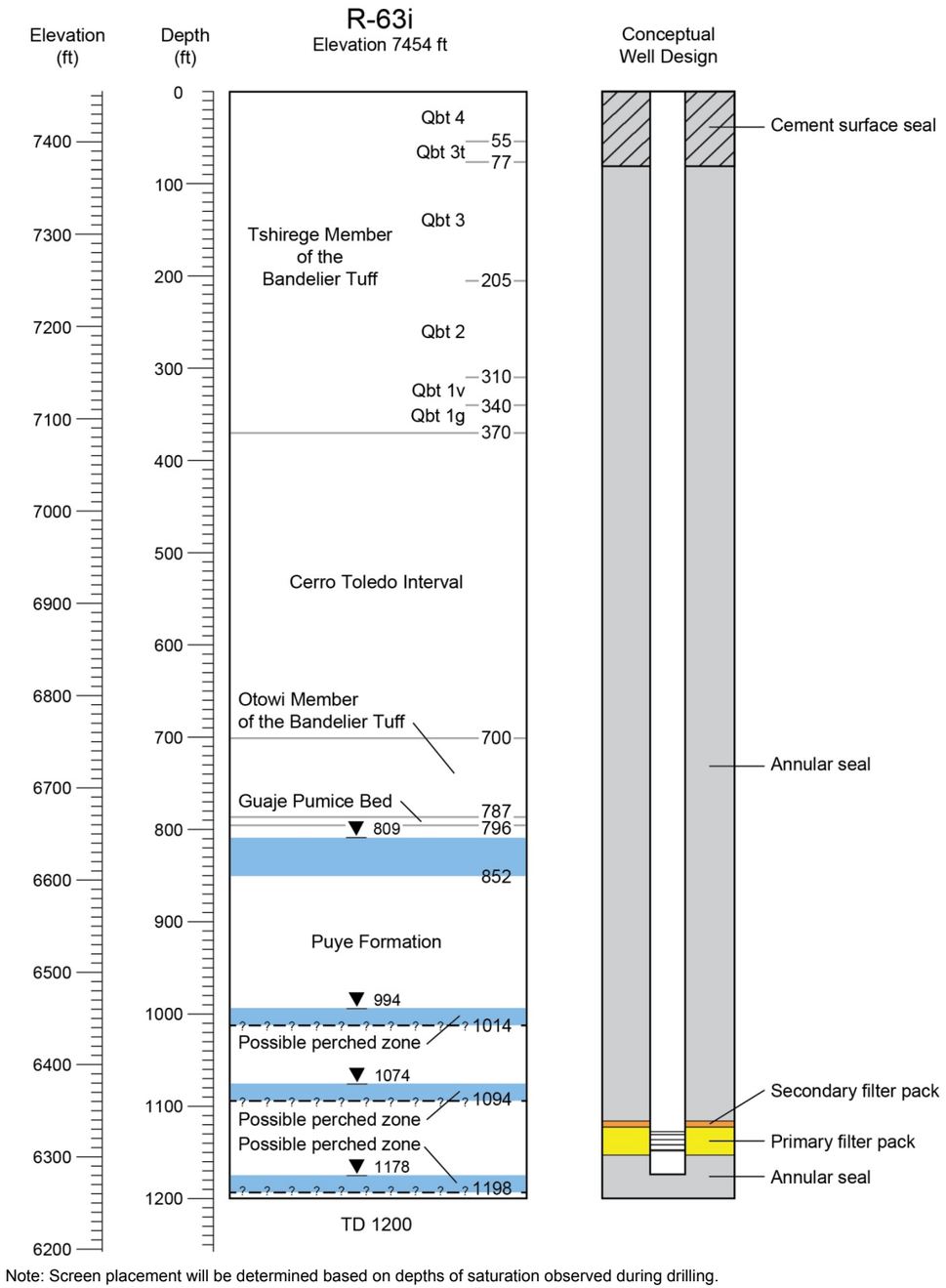


Figure 1 Proposed location of well R-63i



Note: Screen placement will be determined based on depths of saturation observed during drilling.

Figure 2 Predicted geology and proposed well design for well R-63i