

Drilling Work Plan for Regional Aquifer Well R-52

Primary Purpose	Regional aquifer well R-52 is being installed north-northeast of Material Disposal Areas MDAs H and J to supplement well R-37 in monitoring groundwater downgradient of these sites (Figure 1). The target depth for the R-52 borehole is 1175 ft in sediments of the Puye Formation. To support development of a three-dimensional perspective on potential contaminants and groundwater flow within the regional aquifer, the well is planned to have an upper screen near the top of the regional zone of saturation and a lower screen in a zone with good permeability properties, both within the Puye Formation (Figure 2). Screen separation will be a minimum of 50 ft to allow for the installation of a Baski-type sampling system. A final well design will be based on hydrogeologic conditions encountered during drilling and will be submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for approval.
Conceptual Model	Recent groundwater maps of this area indicate a north-northeasterly gradient. Therefore, R-52 is located downgradient of potential releases of hazardous or radioactive chemicals from MDAs H and J at Technical Area 54, and will provide a companion, downgradient well to R-37.
Drilling Approach	Drilling will be conducted with methods selected to optimize the potential of completing the well without the use of 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 perched groundwater intervals.
Potential Drilling Fluids, Composition, and Use	<p>Fluids and additives that may be used to facilitate drilling are consistent with those previously used in the drilling program at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and have been characterized geochemically. Fluids and additives previously authorized for use by NMED include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potable water, municipal water supply, to aid in delivery of other drilling additives and cool 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. <p>Complete records will be maintained detailing the type, amount, and volume of drilling fluid used, depth of drilling fluid added to the borehole, amount in storage in borehole, and recovery volume of drilling fluid. No drilling fluids will be used within 100 ft of the regional aquifer, except potable municipal water. If the regional aquifer cannot be reached without adding drilling fluids, the situation will be discussed with NMED. No chemicals other than those listed above will be added without approval from NMED.</p>
Hydrogeologic and Geochemical Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary objectives are to monitor groundwater quality of the regional aquifer downgradient of MDAs H and J and to establish water levels and flow characteristics in the regional aquifer in this area. • A secondary objective is to determine if perched-intermediate water zones occur in the area near R-37. This secondary purpose will be addressed to the best extent possible, but drilling methods will be optimized to accomplish the primary objective. • A tertiary objective is to define the hydrostratigraphy of the site, characterizing rock units that can impact contaminant pathways in both the vadose and saturated intervals.

<p>Potential Groundwater Occurrence and Detection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Potential Perched Water:</i> 910 ft below ground surface (bgs). Perched groundwater may be present at a depth of approximately 910 ft in the lower part of the Cerros del Rio lavas, based on the occurrence of perched water at well R-37. • <i>Regional:</i> 1024 ft bgs. Regional groundwater is expected to occur in the Puye Formation. • Methods for groundwater detection may include driller's observations, water-level measurements, borehole video, and borehole geophysics.
<p>Core Sampling</p>	<p>No core collection is planned.</p>
<p>Groundwater Screening Sampling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater screening samples will be collected during drilling at any perched groundwater zones producing sufficient water for sampling. • Screening samples of groundwater will be analyzed for cations/metals (dissolved and total) and anions (dissolved) by the Earth and Environmental Sciences Division's Geochemistry and Geomaterials Research Laboratory and for high explosives (HE), tritium, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by off-site laboratories.
<p>Groundwater Characterization Sampling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater samples will be collected from the completed well between 10 and 60 days after well development, in accordance with the Compliance Order on Consent (Consent Order). These samples will be analyzed for the full suite of constituents, including: radiochemistry, metals/cations, general inorganic chemicals, HE, VOCs, and stable isotopes. If R-52 is completed as a two-screen well, the first characterization samples will be collected at the end of each constant rate-pumping test through a stainless-steel discharge pipe. • Subsequent groundwater samples will be collected under the Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan (IFGMP).
<p>Geophysical Testing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 screens. 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 micro-imager 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 depth. The suite and timing of geophysical logging will depend on borehole conditions.
<p>Well Completion Design</p>	<p>Two well screens will be placed within the regional aquifer. Final well design will be based upon observed hydrogeologic conditions.</p>
<p>Well Development</p>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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).

Well Development (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If LANL is unable to bring the water-quality parameters to measure within the limits specified below, the use of chemical well development may be discussed with NMED. No chemicals will be added without approval from NMED. • Chemical means that may be used include sodium acid pyrophosphate and AQUA-CLEAR PFD to remove clays, and/or chlorination to kill bacteria introduced during well completion. <p>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.</p>
Hydraulic Testing	Pumping tests at both screens will be performed if hydrologic conditions permit. Each screen will be isolated and pumped separately. Response to pumping tests will be monitored at nearby wells.
Investigation-Derived Waste Management	<p>Investigation-derived waste (IDW) will be managed in accordance with Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) EP-SOP-5238, Characterization and Management of Environmental Program Waste (http://www.lanl.gov/environment/all/qa/adeq.shtml). This SOP 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.</p> <p>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 days of containerization.</p> <p>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.</p>
Schedule	<p>Well R-52 is proposed for NMED completion on January 29, 2010. This date is consistent with LANL's October 14, 2009, letter to NMED proposing an integrated well-installation schedule for wells that include R-52, which is specifically applicable to the collection of key groundwater data for MDA H.</p> <p>Monitoring conducted subsequent to installation of R-52 will be implemented under the IFGMP and will support investigations and potential corrective actions at MDA H and other sites in the vicinity, as applicable.</p>

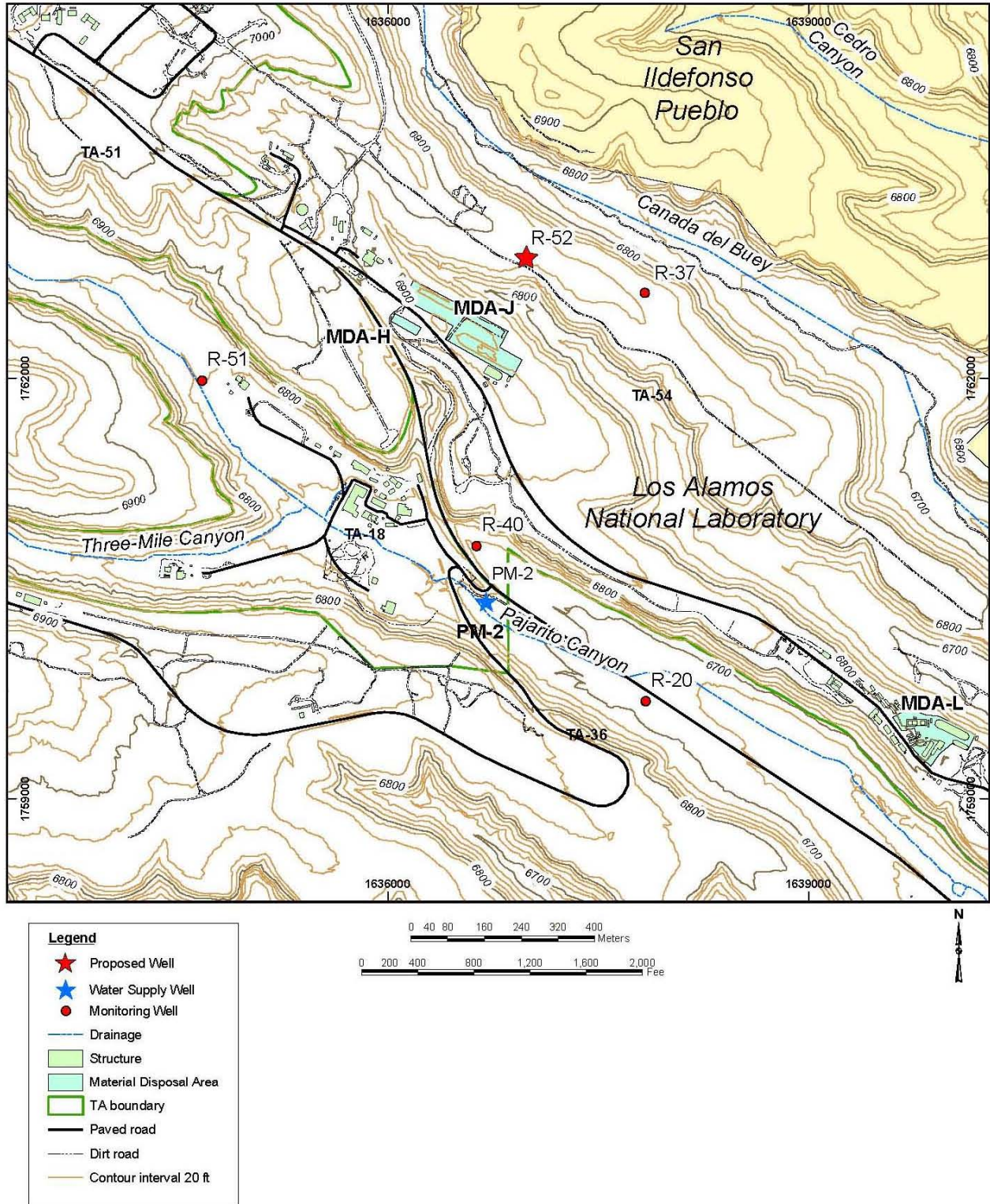


Figure 1 Map of R-52 location

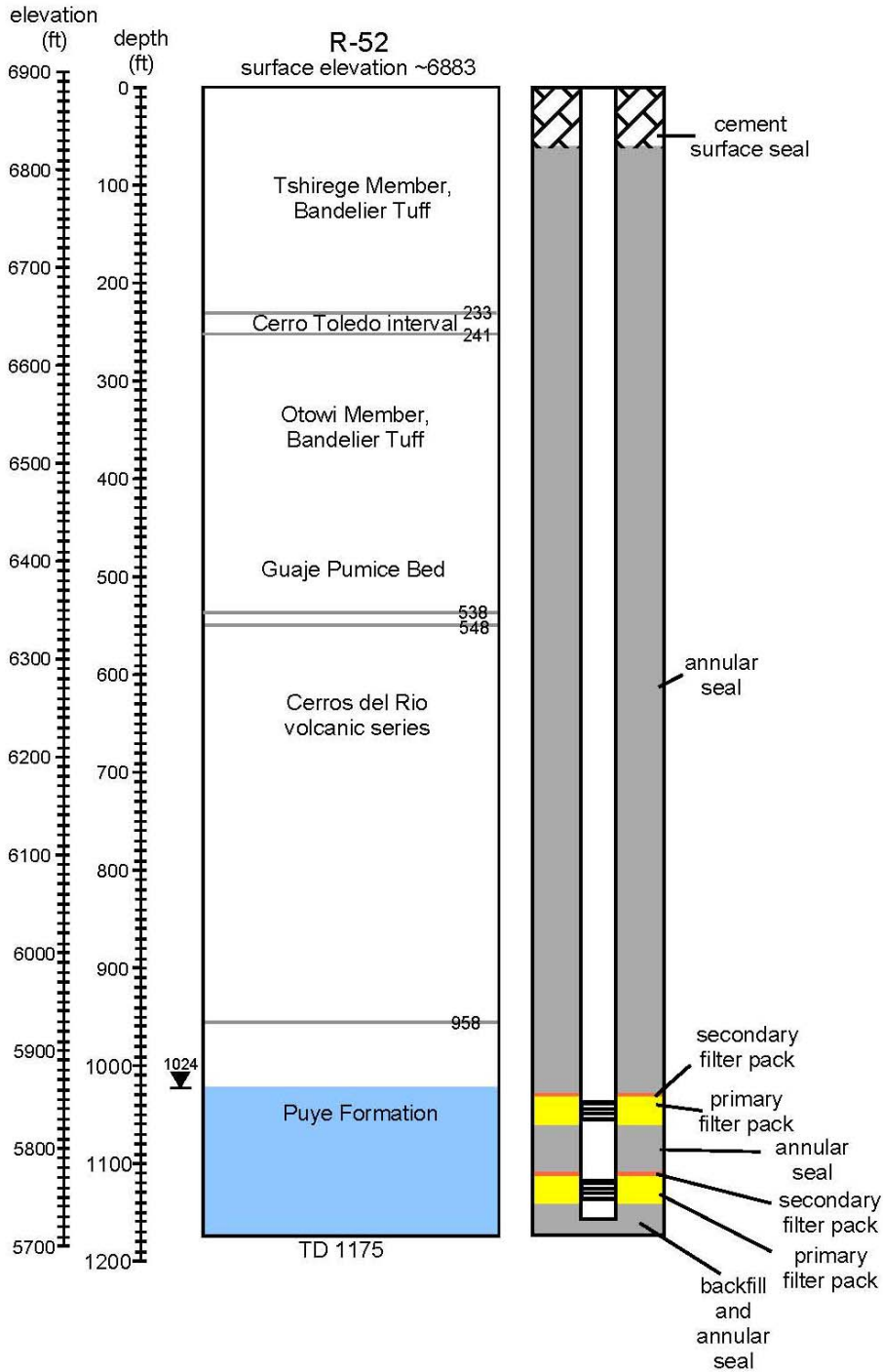


Figure 2 Predicted geology and well schematic for R-52