

Automated Surface-Water Monitoring - Fourth Quarter FY02 (Jul. - Sep. 2002)

During the fourth quarter of FY02, 82 automated surface-water monitoring composite samples were collected and submitted for analysis.

Reportable 30-day average values for americium were observed at Point of Evaluation (POE) GS10 for the period from August 25, 2002 through August 28, 2002. Reportable 30-day average values for plutonium were also observed at Point of Evaluation (POE) GS10 for the period from September 5, 2002 through September 9, 2002. GS10 is located in South Walnut Creek west of Pond B-1. The calculated 30-day average for both plutonium and americium has remained below the reporting threshold through September 15, 2002 (analytical results after September 15 were not available as of November 1, 2002). This newest GS10 reportable event is consistent with seasonal water-quality observations made every spring/summer since 1997 at this location, following implementation of RFCA flow-paced monitoring. No new source evaluation is planned due of the repetitive nature of the event, the previously completed comprehensive investigation(s) of the sub drainage basins tributary to GS10, and the Site's commitment to investigate the area as part of the accelerated action evaluation of Pond B-1.

The findings and conclusions of prior Walnut Creek and GS10 source evaluations suggest that one or more low-level distributed actinide source areas exist within the GS10 subdrainage. Additionally, Pu/Am activity ratios in the surface water during the reportable events suggest that the suspect low-level actinide source areas are relatively enriched in americium. These source evaluations also concluded that ongoing RFETS activities (i.e., Decontamination and Decommissioning and ER projects, excavations, or other routine operations) did not contribute to increased contamination and reportable values. A further project review is not planned because of the repetitive and predictable nature of this event.

In consideration of past source evaluation findings and conclusions, the Site proposes the following in response to these reportable values at GS10:

- (1) Routine monitoring as required by RFCA and the Site Integrated Monitoring Plan will continue.
- (2) Routine data evaluation for GS10 will be included in the Water Year 2002 Automated Surface-Water Monitoring Report.
- (3) Evaluation of the area by ER personnel as part of the evaluation of Pond B-1 during the second and third quarters of FY04.
- (4) No additional source evaluation for this area due to this event.

Including all analytical data available for the Quarter as of 11/1/02, the 30-day moving average values for all other Points of Evaluation (POE) and Points of Compliance (POC) locations were below the RFCA action levels and standards for all monitored analytes.

