Battelle
Pacific Northwest Laboratories

Project Number

Internal Distribution
File
LB

Date November 14, 1983

To PE Bramson

From PA Eddy PAUL

Subject Improved Method for Sampling "Blow" Wells

There are several wells on the Hanford Site that we sample by placing a rubber hose down the well. We then remove the water by pumping compressed air down the rubber hose. The end result is that water is blown from the well and this water is collected for analysis.

SR Bivins and DL Merrill were in the field with LS Prater and they recommended to her a better and faster method of collecting this type of sample. Leigh passed this information on to me.

The plan is simply to install a small diameter metal or "strong" plastic pipe in the "blow" wells. The pipe would only need a coupling on the top that would allow for attaching the air compressor. By doing this, the large, heavy spool presently on the well truck could be removed and replaced by a short section of hose which would attach to the compressor and the pipe. In addition to removing a heavy item from the well truck, time would also be saved. The present method requires that the rubber hose be placed in each well by the monitors. The time required to perform this task is about fifteen minutes. The new method would take "no time at all." Since we sample around thirty wells by this method on a quarterly basis; the end result would be a time savings of about sixty hours per year. That computes to be from $2500 to $4300 savings a year, based on the present charge-out rates for environmental monitors.

To me, this idea not only shows a method of saving time and money but also shows that Steve and Dave have given us a very good idea. I would therefore like to see them rewarded in some manner. It would seem appropriate to give them some sort of cash award (perhaps a percentage of the money saved) or maybe some time off, with pay. Since PNL normally does not do the above items, perhaps we could pay for their, and wife/girlfriend, way to the Christmas party. We could also acknowledge their efforts at the party. This is just a suggestion, but it would show our appreciation to them.