



March 08, 2022

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### NMED Performance of Focused Data Validation

Dear Arturo Duran,

It has recently come to the attention of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) that tritium results posted in the Los Alamos National Laboratory IntellusNM for groundwater samples collected by the Los Alamos Oversight Section (LOS) of the DOE Oversight Bureau (DOE-OB) since calendar year 2020 will require a revised and more thorough data verification and validation (V&V) to ensure data defensibility. At this stage, NMED is conducting a "focused validation" on suspect tritium data and flagged all questionable results in IntellusNM with "non-use" qualifiers ("R" Validation Qualifier, "R19" Reason Code, "N" Use Flag). The DOE-OB will explore using alternative labs and/or multiple labs to reduce potential issues relating to data defensibility and is undertaking measures to identify the root cause of the suspect data to reduce future reoccurrence through internal process improvement. NMED takes this issue, transparency, and the public concern very seriously and is committed to reporting accurate and defensible data.

Thanks,

Chris  
Catechis

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Chris Catechis  
Acting Division Director  
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John Rhoderick

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