Water Quality at LANL and White Rock Canyon

Los Alamos Canyon

Los Alamos Canyon on LANL property[1] is polluted/impaired (not meeting water quality standards) for **Gross Alpha, Mercury (total), PCBs, Radium, Cynanide (total recoverable), Selenium (total recoverable), and Aluminum (total recoverable) .** Because of these impairments three designated uses are not being supported – livestock watering, aquatic life, and wildlife habitat. The NM PCB water quality standard for wildlife habitat is 14 ng/L and the human health standard is .64 ng/L. Stormwater samples taken from Los Alamos Canyon have had PCB concerntrations as high as 16,900 ng/L. (Assessment Units: NM-9000.A_063 and NM-9000.A_006)

Los Alamos Canyon – Above LANL

Los Alamos Canyon above LANL (from Los Alamos Reservoir upstream to headwaters) is not listed as impaired for any parameters. (Assessment unit NM-127.A_00)

Pueblo Canyon

Pueblo Canyon is impaired for **Gross Alpha (adjested), PCBs, Copper (dissovled), Selenium (total recoverable) and Aluminum (total recoverable)**. Because of these impairments three designated uses are not being supported – livestock watering, aquatic life, and wildlife habitat. (Assessment units: NM-99.A_001, NM-97.A_006, and NM-9000.A_043)

DP Canyon

DP Canyon is impaired for **Gross Alpha (adjusted), PCBs, Copper (dissolved) and Aluminum (total recoverable).** Because of these impairments three designated uses are not being supported – livestock watering, limited aquatic life, and wildlife habitat. (Assessment units: NM-128.A_14 and NM-128.A_10)

Mortandad Canyon

Mortandad Canyon is impaired for **Gross Alpha (adjusted), PCBs, Copper (dissolved) and Mercury (total).** Because of these impairments three designated uses are not being supported – limited aquatic life, livestock watering and wildlife habitat. (Assessment unit: NM-9000.A_042)

Guaje Canyon

Guaje Canyon from the San Ildefonso boundary to headwaters is meeting all water quality standards.

Sandia Canyon

Sandia Canyon on LANL property is impaired for **PCBs, Aluminum (total recoverable), Copper (dissolved), Gross Alpha (adjusted), PCBs, Temperature, and Mercury (total)**. Because of these impairments three designated uses are not being supported – livestock watering, coldwater aquatic life and wildlife habitat. Sediment samples taken in Sandia Canyon show PCB concentrations between 611,471 – 2,464,497 ng/kg. (Assessment units: NM-9000.A_047 and NM-128.A_11)

Acid Canyon

Acid Canyon is impaired for **Aluminum (total recoverable), Copper (dissolved), Gross Alpha (adjusted), and PCBs.** Because of these impairments three designated uses are not being supported – livestock watering, marginal warmwater aquatic life and wildlife habitat (Assessment unit: NM-97.A_002)

Pajarito Canyon

Pajarito Canyon is impaired for **Aluminum (total recoverable), Copper (dissolved), Gross Alpha (adjusted), Cyanide (total recoverable), Silver (dissolved), Mercury (total), and PCBs.** Because of this impairment threes designated uses are not being supported – limited aquatic life, livestock watering and wildlife habitat (Assessment units: NM128.A_08, NM-128.A_06, and NM -128.A_048)

Rio Grande – White Rock Canyon

The Rio Grande from Cochiti Reservoir to San Ildefonso boundary is impaired for **PCBs in fish tissue, Aluminum (dissolved), Turbidity, Gros Alpha (adjusted), PCBs in the water column, Selenium (total recoverable), Thallium, Cynanide (total recoverable), and Turbidity.** These impairments have resulted in five uses not being supported in this stretch of the Rio Grande - livestock watering, irrigation, marginal coldwater aquatic life, warm water aquatic life, and wildlife habitat. (Assessment unit: NM-2111_00)

Notes:

- Water quality impairments were taken from the 2018-2020 State of New Mexico Clean Water Act 303d/305b Integrated Report and specific water quality and sediment data was found on the LANL database.

- In some cases the canyons on LANL property have been split up into various asssement units. This summary has listed all the impairments found in a canyon, even if it the impairment is only found in one assessment unit.

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