

General



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**NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

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RON CURRY  
Secretary

JON GOLDSTEIN  
Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

December 17, 2007

David Gregory  
Federal Project Director  
Los Alamos Site Office, Department of Energy  
528 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Mail Stop A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

David McInroy  
Remediation Services Deputy Project Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A992  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL WITH DIRECTION  
WORK PLAN FOR GEOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION AND DRILLING  
FOR FATE AND TRANSPORT OF CONTAMINANTS ORIGINATING IN SANDIA  
CANYON, LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-06-027**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Work Plan for Geochemical Characterization and Drilling for Fate and Transport of Contaminants Originating in Sandia Canyon* (hereafter, the Plan) dated November 2007 and referenced by LA-UR-07-7579/EP2007-0713. NMED has reviewed the Plan and hereby issues this approval with following direction.

NMED views the proposed drilling plan as an important step to identify the fate and transport of chromium released in Sandia Canyon and to verify whether there is a secondary source of chromium affecting the regional aquifer in the deep vadose zone. These drilling activities will provide data critical to assessing remedial options during the corrective measures evaluation process for chromium contamination in regional groundwater and potentially in the deep vadose



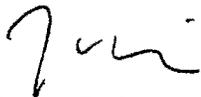
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Messrs. Gregory and McInroy  
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zone. The continuous detection of chromium in regional groundwater at concentrations well above the drinking-water maximum contaminant level for more than two years strongly suggests that remediation of chromium contamination in the regional groundwater will be necessary to mitigate further degradation of the drinking-water resource beneath Los Alamos and protect human health. NMED therefore requires that the Permittees expedite implementation of these essential drilling activities. The proposed intermediate monitoring well (SCI-2) and the regional groundwater monitoring well (R-42) must be completed no later than April 30 and June 30, 2008, respectively. The Permittees must incorporate results of all investigation activities proposed in the Plan into a revised fate and transport modeling report for chromium contamination from Sandia Canyon to NMED no later than July 31, 2008, as required in NMED's October 17, 2007 letter.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact John Young at (505) 476-6038 or Hai Shen at (505) 476-6039.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:hs

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
J. Young, NMED HWB  
K. Roberts, NMED HWB  
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file: Reading and LANL General (Sandia Canyon, Groundwater, IMIR for Cr)