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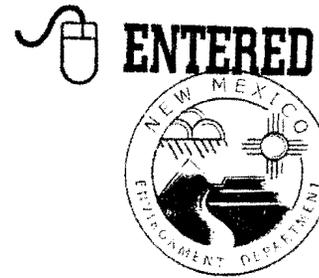
Hazardous Waste Bureau

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Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

November 2, 2009

David Gregory
Project Director, Environmental Operations
Los Alamos Site Office, Department of Energy
3747 West Jemez Road, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

David McInroy
Remediation Services Deputy Project Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS M992
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: PROPOSED INTEGRATED WELL-INSTALLATION SCHEDULE
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-MISC-GW**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) letter entitled *Proposed Integrated Well-Installation Schedule* (Schedule) dated October 14, 2009 and referenced by EP2009-0496.

NMED has reviewed the Schedule and provides the following comments:

1. NMED approves the proposed approximate locations for all wells listed in the Schedule. The Permittees must submit final locations with the corresponding drilling work plans.
2. The Permittees state in the Schedule that the proposed due dates for well completion or abandonment will allow them to use drill rigs more efficiently, and will enable earlier deployment of drill rigs to higher-priority wells. NMED approves of the proposed well completion and abandonment due dates for only the following wells: CdV 37-1(i), MDA-AB new well, R-30, TA-16 CME test well, R-3, TW-2(r), Buckman Sentinel, Water Alluvials, and Test Well P&As.



3. Proposed completion dates for wells at and near TA-54 are not approved, as the Permittees are already delinquent in the completion of these wells. Wells at and near TA-54 should have already been installed by the Permittees in order to obtain adequate groundwater data to support remedy selection. As stated in numerous pieces of correspondence dating back to April 7, 2007, the need for adequate, timely, and technically defensible groundwater data for TA-54 and elsewhere has long been known to the Permittees.
4. A completion due date for well R-50 is addressed in separate correspondence from NMED to the Permittees dated October 29, 2009.
5. The Schedule does not include all wells required by NMED. For example, the Permittees have yet to submit to NMED a groundwater monitoring well network plan for TA-21. Additionally, in a letter dated October 15, 2009, NMED directed the Permittees to install two regional groundwater monitoring wells in the vicinity of MDA C at TA-50. An additional intermediate well, not proposed in the Schedule, is also required near R-40 to characterize and monitor intermediate zone perched groundwater beneath MDA H at TA-54. The Permittees must take steps to mobilize additional resources necessary for installation of these wells and, likely, other wells that may be required by NMED in the future.

Nothing in this letter shall be construed as an abrogation of NMED's rights to pursue enforcement actions against the Permittees for failure to comply with requirements of the March 1, 2005 Order on Consent (Order). Stipulated penalties for the MDA G CME Report will continue to accrue until NMED determines that the Permittees are in substantial compliance with the Order, which includes, among other requirements, construction of a comprehensive groundwater monitoring network and collection of additional groundwater data at TA-54.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jerzy Kulis of my staff at (505) 476-6039.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

BRZ:jk

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB

Messrs. Gregory and McInroy
Proposed Integrated Well-Installation Schedule
November 2, 2009
Page 3

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T. Skibitski. NMED DOE OB
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file: Reading and LANL General (Groundwater General)