



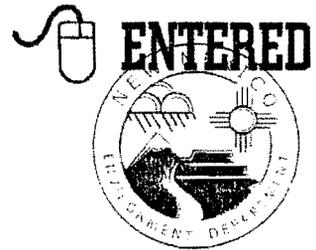
BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

DIANE DENISH
Lieutenant Governor

General
NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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RON CURRY
Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 11, 2010

George J. Rael
Environmental Operations Manager
Los Alamos Site Office
Department of Energy
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS 991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT RELIABILITY ASSESSMENT OF
MULTI-SCREENED WESTBAY WELLS
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL)
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-MISC-GW**

Dear Messrs Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) reiterates its longstanding concern with the reliability of the data generated from multi-screened no-purge Westbay monitoring wells at LANL. Specifically, these wells may not be capable of producing representative samples for contaminant detection and monitoring. In 2007, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C. (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) submitted to NMED the *Well Screen Analysis Report, Revision 2* (Report), which was approved on May 25, 2007. The Report evaluated impacts from residual drilling fluids on the representativeness of groundwater samples in regional and intermediate aquifer wells. The Report concluded that the majority of screens associated with the Westbay installations may have been impacted by drilling fluids. Since then, several Westbay wells have been rehabilitated and converted to single or dual-screened wells that contain pumps and therefore are capable of being purged prior to sample collection.

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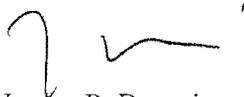


The March 1, 2005 Compliance Order on Consent (Order) requires wells to be designed and constructed in a manner which will yield high quality samples. In order to determine if the remaining Westbay wells are yielding high quality samples suitable for monitoring purposes, the Permittees must conduct a reliability assessment of Westbay wells by comparing water-quality data from groundwater samples collected from the same screen intervals in Westbay wells both prior to and after purging.

The Permittees must conduct the reliability assessment for at least seven screens from a minimum of four Westbay wells. The Permittees must submit a work plan that proposes the Westbay wells to be tested and describes the details of purging and collection of samples from the selected wells, proposed analytical tests, and the methodology to assess representativeness of samples collected by **March 12, 2010**.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Michael Dale at (505) 661-2673.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
J. Kulis, NMED HWB
K. Roberts, NMED HWB
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File: Reading and LANL '10, Groundwater Miscellaneous