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JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

RAJ SOLOMON, P.E.
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 8, 2011

George J. Rael, Assistant Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
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: LAS CONCHAS WILDFIRE EFFECTS AND
MITIGATION ACTIONS IN AFFECTED CANYONS
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL)
EPA ID #NM0890010515**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) understands that the upper Los Alamos, Pajarito, and Water canyon watersheds were affected by the recent Las Conchas Fire. NMED hereby requires United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) to submit a summary of the effects of the Las Conchas Fire on these three watersheds and any other affected areas. NMED also requires an assessment of the potential consequences to Laboratory property and downstream areas from flooding resulting from the loss of forest cover and erosion in the affected watersheds.

The Permittees must submit a report that provides detailed descriptions of wildfire and flooding effects, identification of issues of concern, and completed mitigation actions. The report must include maps and photographs of the affected areas and describe any planned future actions to address fire-related impacts to the Laboratory. The report must also identify any changes to the approved Los Alamos Canyon surface water monitoring program that were made in response to the threat of flooding posed by wildfire impacts to the upper portion of the watershed. The Permittees must provide this report to NMED no later than **September 29, 2011**.

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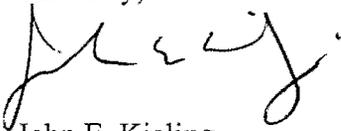
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NMED understands that approximately 1,200 cubic yards of sediment were recently removed from the retention basins above the Los Alamos Canyon low-head weir. Provide a detailed description of this removal action, including but not limited to, the location where the sediments were stockpiled and any analytical results from testing performed on the sediments. Following the removal of sediments from the retention basins above the Los Alamos Canyon low-head weir, a trench was created in the lower basin which exposes an additional one foot length of the weir standpipe which will allow significantly more storm water to flow through the structure with little to no reduction in velocity. This modification has severely diminished the effectiveness of the low-head weir. This structure has previously proven to be very effective in preventing contaminated sediments suspended in storm water flows from migrating off-site onto San Ildefonso Pueblo lands and to the Rio Grande. The downstream basin where the standpipe is located must be returned to its previous operational state. The Permittees must install filter fabric around the standpipe in order to reduce sediment concentrations in the storm water outflow below the low-head weir. The Permittees must secure the fabric in place and cover the standpipe to the previous grade using 6-inch diameter cobbles.

The Permittees must provide date-stamped photographic evidence showing the required stages of this repair and that the repair was completed no later than **August 19, 2011**. The photographs must be included with the written report due by **September 29, 2011**, as stated above.

Please contact Ben Wear at (505) 476-6041 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
B. Wear, NMED HWB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
P. Maggiore, DOE-LASO, MS A316
S. Veenis, EP-CAP, MS M992
C. Rodriguez, DOE-LASO, MS A316
N. Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo

File: Reading and LANL '11, Los Alamos/Pueblo Canyons Surface Water