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General
NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



ENTERED



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Acting Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 5, 2011

George J. Rael
Assistant Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
3747 West Jemez Rd, MSA316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL
VARIANCE REQUEST
WHITE ROCK MONITORING GROUP
2011 INTERIM FACILITY-WIDE GROUNDWATER MONITORING PLAN
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-11-058**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

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 (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Variance Request for White Rock Monitoring Group of the 2011 Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan* (Request) dated September 28, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0324.

The Permittees request a variance from the approved sampling requirements for the White Rock Monitoring Group as listed in the Permittees' 2011 Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan (EP2011-0273). In the Request, the Permittees propose to reduce the number of sampling stations from 29, as prescribed in the Plan, to 20. The justification for the reduction in sampling stations is due to site access and health and safety issues related to the effects of the Las Conchas Wildfire and the potential for



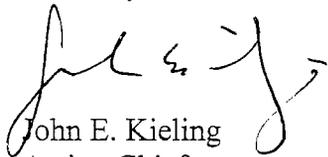
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flooding associated with rain storms upstream of nine of the sampling locations.

The Permittees have shown good cause for the Request. NMED hereby grants the Permittees a variance to reduce the number of stations to be sampled as part of the White Rock Monitoring Group from 29 to 20.

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

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
J. Kulis, NMED HWB
M. Dale, NMED HWB
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
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C. Douglass, EP-CAP, MS A992
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File: Reading and LANL 2011 – Variance Request 2011 IFGMP