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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 1, 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 WITH MODIFICATION
COMPLETION REPORT FOR INTERMEDIATE TEST WELL 2Ar
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-10-063**

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 *Completion Report for Intermediate Test Well 2Ar* (Report) dated July, 2010 and referenced by EP2010-0272. NMED hereby approves the Report with the following modification.

1. Section 7.2, Well Construction, third paragraph, page 6:

Due to the lack of adequate yield to the screened interval, the well casing, screen and annular fill material were removed from the borehole and reinstalled at a shallower depth. The removal of the well casing and screen, and subsequent bailing to remove the filter pack may have agitated the lower bentonite seal, possibly resulting in the bentonite migrating into the saturated interval where the

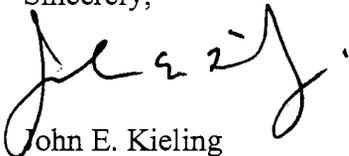


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screen was ultimately placed. Therefore, in order to support the representativeness of groundwater samples collected from Test Well 2Ar, the Permittees must monitor water-quality and trace-element hydrochemistry during periodic monitoring with the objective of determining if water quality is affected by the presence of bentonite introduced during well construction.

No revision of the Report is necessary. The Permittees must specifically discuss the results of water quality sampling as those data relate to the presence of bentonite in the associated future Periodic Monitoring Reports. Please contact Michael Dale of my staff at (505) 661-2673 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
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File: Reading and LANL 2011 – Test Well 2Ar Groundwater LANL-10-063