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NEW MEXICO  ENTERED  
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BUTCH TONGATE  
Acting Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 5, 2011

George J. Rael, Manager  
Environmental Projects Office  
U.S. Department of Energy/National  
Nuclear Security Administration  
Los Alamos Site Office  
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316  
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: PERIODIC MONITORING REPORT  
PAJARITO WATERSHED, JANUARY 11 – JANUARY 28, 2011  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-11-065**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security L.L.C.'s (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) *Periodic Monitoring Report for Pajarito Watershed, January 11 – January 28, 2011* (PMR), dated August, 2011, received August 23, 2011, and referenced by LA-UR-11-3838 and EP2011-0201. NMED has reviewed the PMR and provides the following comment.

**Appendix E, Analytical Chemistry Graphs of Screening-Level Exceedences, pages E-6 and E-7:**

NMED noted unusually high (greater than 700 milligrams per liter (mg/L)) nitrate/nitrite concentrations in wells PCI-2, R-19 port MP4A, and R-20 port P1A. This occurred in samples collected on or about September 1, 2010. These constituent concentrations

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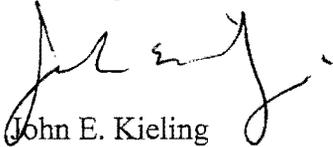


significantly increased from previous sampling event concentrations where nitrate/nitrite concentrations were generally less than 1 mg/L. With the exception of well R-19 port MP4A (the port has not been sampled since the reported increase), subsequent concentrations dropped back to less than 1 mg/L. This suggests there may have been laboratory analytical problems associated with the data and the samples should have been re-run to verify data validity or take other appropriate corrective action. Alternatively, the unit of measure may have been misreported.

NMED also noted that the port designations for wells R-19 and R-20 shown on the graphs discussed above do not match the designations listed in Table C-2 (*Pajarito Analytical Results and Results from the Four Previous Monitoring Events if Available*). In the case of R-19, the port designation at 1,412.9 feet below ground surface (bgs) is listed as "352" in the table but is shown on the graph as "MP4A". In the case of R-20, the table indicates the port designation at 904.6 feet bgs is "8441" while the designation shown on the graph is "P1A". Future PMRs must use consistent port designations.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Daniel Comeau at (505) 476-6043.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling  
Acting Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
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