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mailed  
9.7.10  
ck

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 7, 2010

George J. Rael  
Federal Project Director  
Los Alamos Site Office  
Department of Energy, NNSA  
3747 West Jemez Road  
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:   REQUIRMENT FOR AN INTERIM ASSESSMENT  
      TO REPORT STORM DAMAGE  
      LOS ALAMOS AND PUEBLO CANYONS  
      SEDIMENT TRANSPORT MONITORING PLAN  
      LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
      EPA ID # NM0890010515  
      HWB-LANL-09-059**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued an Approval with Modifications on January 11, 2010 for the United States Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C. (collectively, the Permittees) *Submittal of the Monitoring Plan for Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons Sediment Transport Mitigation Project* (Plan) dated October 15, 2009 (referenced by EP2009-0520). The Approval with Modifications included the requirement for the Permittees to submit to NMED an annual monitoring report by May 30 of each year that documents, among other reporting requirements, all observed geomorphic changes in Pueblo and Los Alamos Canyons during the previous year, including sediment accumulations behind sediment control structures and any observed damage to monitoring stations and sediment control structures. The annual monitoring report must also include any actions taken or proposed to repair damage that occurred to the structures during the reporting period.

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Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons were subject to a series of storm events in August 2010 that resulted in significant damage to some of the sediment control structures installed in the canyons. The annual reporting requirement does not include a provision addressing more immediate actions that may be necessary to mitigate the effects of storm events of the magnitude that occurred in the past month. These recent storm events may have caused unanticipated erosion or damage to some of the sediment control structures and monitoring stations in Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons, potentially reducing or eliminating the structure's effectiveness.

In order to better understand the effects of the recent storm events on the sediment control structures, the Permittees must conduct an interim assessment of the effects of the storm events and the damage to the sediment control structures in Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons. The interim assessment must include evaluation of the following sites:

1. Los Alamos Canyon Low-head Weir
2. the grade control structure in DP Canyon
3. the grade control structure in Pueblo Canyon
4. the cross-vane structures in Pueblo Canyon
5. the wing ditch and willow plantings in Pueblo Canyon
6. the wetlands from the new Pueblo Canyon waste water treatment plant to the east end of Reach P4 West
7. the LA-SMA-2 retention structures in Los Alamos Canyon
8. all monitoring stations located in the vicinity of the above-referenced structures and also monitoring station E110.

The interim assessment must include documentation of all bank and channel erosion, channel scour or undercutting, and deposition related to the sediment control structures, evaluation of any newly created flow paths, and any other changes that could affect the performance of the structures and monitoring stations. In addition, the Permittees must include proposed interim or permanent repairs necessary to remedy any damage that affects the performance of the sediment control structures, including a schedule for implementation of the repairs.

The Permittees must submit a report to NMED summarizing the results of the interim assessment that, at a minimum, includes the information required by this letter, photographs of any damage observed at each sediment control structure and monitoring station, engineering evaluations, as appropriate, figures depicting structural damage and erosion/deposition features, and any proposed actions to repair or replace any structure or monitoring station. The report must be submitted no later than **November 1, 2010**.

Messrs. Rael and Graham  
September 7, 2010  
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Please contact Dave Cobrain of my staff at (505) 476-6055 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:dc

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB  
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file: Reading and LANL Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons Sediment Control Interim Assessment Storm  
Damage (Los Alamos-Pueblo Canyons Surface Water)