



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Los Alamos Field Office  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

ENTERED



FEB 19 2013



Mr. John E. Kieling, Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The Los Alamos Field Office (NA-00-LA) has evaluated your letter dated November 5, 2012 regarding the conveyance and transfer of Tracts A-14a, -14c and -14d (Rendija Canyon) to the County of Los Alamos (LAC).

The Los Alamos Field Office concurs with New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) that the site can be considered for corrective actions complete with controls status and requests approval for this designation. To support this request, NA-00-LA would like to provide clarification to two statements made in your letter.

- 1.) First, the letter states that visual surveys of the solid waste management units (SWMUs) in the land transfer tracts conducted in 2006 found "high explosive mortar rounds and munitions debris (MD) at the site." The statement suggests that intact mortar rounds were found during the 2006 survey, which is not the case. The MD found at SWMU 00-011(a) included a mortar fuse and a mortar fin assembly, but not an intact mortar round. No intact mortar rounds or any other unexploded ordnance (UXO) were found in the 2006 or subsequent surveys.
- 2.) Second, the letter states that since Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has not been able to collect storm water data at sites in the land transfer tracts, stormwater monitoring has not been conducted to date. Through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System individual stormwater discharge permit (IP) baseline control measures have been installed for each site in the IP, to include samplers capable of collecting samples of runoff from these sites. To date, runoff from the IP sites in the Rendija Canyon transfer tracts has not been sufficient to allow collection of samples due, in part, to the effectiveness of the baseline control measures. Samples will continue to be collected as required by the IP.

Over the course of the last two months NA-00-LA has met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and developed a thorough understanding of the COE process used for land transfer of federal land with munitions and explosive concerns. Based on the COE's recommendations, NA-00-LA is using similar institutional controls and lessons learned for the Rendija Canyon tracts. Therefore, NA-00-LA will take the following actions to transfer these Tracts to LAC in response to NMED's request to propose controls:

- Conduct one additional biennial survey in December 2013;

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- Install a kiosk sign at the entrance to Rendija Canyon that describes the history of the site and identifies pictures of the types of potential ordnance and associated debris that may be encountered, safety precautions and phone numbers to call if encountered;
- Install signage within the Rendija parcel to guide and communicate safety to visitors;
- Conduct explosive and unexploded ordnance awareness training to LAC officials.

The transfer of the Rendija Canyon tracts is very important to the LAC and numerous discussions between NA-00-LA, NMED and LAC regarding the proposed actions above have been met with acceptance. Los Alamos Field Office requests NMED approval of corrective actions complete with controls for Tract A-14a, 14c and 14d (Rendija Canyon) to support the actions listed above in order to expedite the transfer to LAC.

If you have any questions, please contact George Rael at (505) 606-0397.



Juan L. Griego  
Acting Manager

FEB 19 2013

cc:

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