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2000  
RECEIVED

Date: May 5, 2000  
Refer to: ER2000-0227

Mr. Fred Brueggeman  
Deputy County Administrator  
Los Alamos County Government  
2300 Trinity  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON STATUS OF THE GUAJE PINES (0-016) VOLUNTARY CORRECTIVE ACTION (VCA) COMPLETION REPORT APPROVAL**

Dear Mr. Brueggeman:

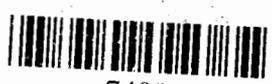
The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) received an approval letter from the New Mexico Environment Department/Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (NMED/HRMB) regarding the VCA Completion Report for Guaje Pines (0-016). The approval for No Further Action (NFA) at the site mentioned two additional concerns that have since been addressed by the Environmental Restoration (ER) Program.

1. *The potential migration of contaminants present at 0-016 prior to remediation and those remaining post-remediation into Rendija Canyon is a concern. This reach of the canyon should be included in the Canyons Focus Area investigations to be conducted in the future.*

The Canyons Focus Area has added a reach to be investigated in Rendija Canyon.

2. *The second concern is the off-site transport and disposition of soils contaminated with less than 400 parts per million of lead. It was learned that some of the contaminated soils were utilized in the regrading and widening of Range Road between Aspen and Diamond Drives and may have been deposited in a watercourse. Although these soils meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-designated human health risk levels, they may pose an excessive risk to the ecological health of the watercourse and terrestrial environment.*

The Laboratory did use some of the processed soils as road fill material as approved by EPA. This fill material was placed more than fifty yards away from a watercourse. Because of the groundcover and topography between the road and the watercourse the area has a very low potential for erosion. Also, since the material was placed beneath the present location of the road, it is very unlikely any significant amounts of residual contamination would migrate to the watercourse.



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LANL has met with members of the Surface Water Quality Bureau and the Department of Energy (DOE) Oversight Bureau (OB) staff to discuss these concerns. ER Project personnel also met with the Surface Water Assessment Team (SWAT) regarding this site. At the request of the SWAT, a post-remediation Surface Water Site Assessment (SOP 2.01) was performed at the site. The evaluation concluded that the site has little potential for erosion to take place as a result of ER activities.

It appeared that both Bureau's representatives were satisfied with LANL's responses to the concerns and had no major issues associated with the stabilization efforts associated with the remediation. In addition, LANL has installed geotextile matting on the eastern slope of Range Road across from the Ponderosa Estate subdivision to further stabilize the road fill area near the adjacent storm water culvert. This area should be periodically inspected by the County to assure proper maintenance occurs.

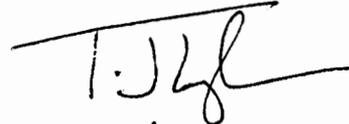
LANL believes that the combined concurrence of the NMED and DOE/OB with our NFA request, along with the resolution of the two concerns described above makes this site an excellent candidate for removal from the HSWA Permit by a Class 3 Permit Modification. LANL will keep you informed on the status of this request. If you have any questions, please contact Dave McInroy at (505) 667-0819 or Joe Mose at (505) 667-5808.

Sincerely,



Julie A. Canepa, Program Manager  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Environmental Restoration

Sincerely,



Theodore J. Taylor, Program Manager  
Department of Energy  
Los Alamos Area Office

JC/TT/DM/ev

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Mr. Bruggerman  
ER2000-0227

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May 5, 2000

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