

Environmental Programs
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Date: July 17, 2009 Refer To: EP2009-0330

James P. Bearzi, Bureau Chief Hazardous Waste Bureau New Mexico Environment Department 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1 Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

Subject: Request for Extension for the Submittal of the Sandia Canyon Investigation Report

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) requests an extension for the submittal date for the Sandia Canyon investigation report (IR) from the current date of August 31, 2009, to October 15, 2009. The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) current due date of August 31, 2009 reflects NMED's approval for an extension from December 31, 2008, to accommodate the installation and sampling of two new regional aquifer groundwater monitoring wells, R-44 and R-45. These wells were installed on January 15, 2009, and January 24, 2009, respectively. Each well has a two-screen construction that requires the use of a custom-built Baski sampling system for purging and sampling.

The basis for the request is the considerable delay in the delivery of the Baski sampling systems for R-44 and R-45. The manufacturer of the Baski systems attributed the delay to a lack of small-job vendors for stainless-steel components, specifically the 1-in. stainless-steel riser pipe used to bring groundwater to the surface. The systems were received in late June and early July and were installed in both wells as of the week of July 6, 2009.

The first samples from these wells were collected during February and March as part of aquifer testing while the screens were in isolation from each other before the Baski sampling system was installed. The first samples collected from a newly installed well are not yet representative of ambient groundwater around the well.

Samples from the newly installed Baski system will be collected during the week of July 13, 2009, and requested for quick turnaround. Nonvalidated results are expected to begin arriving in late July, and validated results will be available in early August 2009. An extension of the submittal date of the Sandia IR to October 15, 2009, will allow the Laboratory to incorporate these new data into the report to address nature and extent and complete model calibration to the new chromium values in groundwater. The Laboratory appreciates the NMED's consideration of this request.



James Bearzi EP2009-0330

If you have any questions, please contact Danny Katzman at (505) 667-6333 (katzman@lanl.gov) or Nancy Werdel at (505) 665-3619 (nwerdel@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

Michael J. Graham, Associate Director

Environmental Programs

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely

David R. Gregory, Project Director

Environmental Operations Los Alamos Site Office

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EP-LWSP File, MS M992

RPF, MS M707

IRM-RMMSO, MS A150 (date-stamped letter emailed)