



 **ENTERED**
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October 14, 2010

DCN: NMED-2010-32

Mr. David Cobrain
NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Dr. E, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: Draft Technical Evaluation of the Response to Notice of Deficiency for the Investigation Report for Upper Sandia Canyon Aggregate Area, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Dated September 1, 2010

Dear Mr. Cobrain:

This letter serves as a deliverable and addresses the technical evaluations of responses to risk assessment related Notice of Deficiency (NOD) comments on the Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) "Investigation Report for Upper Sandia Canyon Aggregate Area", dated September 1, 2010. Comments included in this review include General Comment Nos. 1 and 2 and Specific Comment Nos. 21, 29, and 30.

The responses to General Comment Nos. 1 and 2 were adequate as provided. No additional comments were generated.

The response to Specific Comment No. 21 appears adequate as presented. It is agreed that determining an exposure point concentration using all data from across a site and not just from a localized area is consistent with guidance and past practice. The soil screening level (SSL) for 1,2-dichlorobenzene is listed in the response as 450 mg/kg. This SSL is incorrect, as the December 2009 table lists the industrial SSL for 1,2-dichlorobenzene as 1.43E04 mg/kg. It is noted that use of the correct SSL would result in an even lower hazard index. The original comment from NMED referenced a previous NOD; NMED may wish to further evaluate previously issued NOD letters to ensure all issues have been addressed.

The response to Specific Comment No. 29 was adequate as provided. It is agreed that the elevated level of manganese is limited to a small area and that overall risk from the site is not represented by this single datum. However, within the comment, a statement was made that a hazard index of 1.4 is equivalent to the target index of 1.0. While not directly related to assessing the adequacy of the response, I do not agree with this conclusion, as many factors must be evaluated when assessing a hazard index; it is not simply a comparison of numbers.

The response to Specific Comment No. 30 is adequate as provided.



If you have any questions, please contact me at (801) 451-2864 or via email at paigewalton@msn.com.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paige Walton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paige Walton
AQS Senior Scientist and Program Manager

cc: Neelam Dhawan, NMED (electronic)
Joel Workman, AQS (electronic)