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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 15, 2011

George J. Rael
Assistant Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
3747 West Jemez Rd, MSA316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL
EXTENSION REQUEST
TO SUBMIT THE PHASE II INVESTIGATION REPORT
FOR SANDIA CANYON
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-10-061**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Request for Extension to Submit the Phase II Investigation for Sandia Canyon* (Report) dated December 2, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0406.

The Permittees request the extension to submit the Report from April 30, 2012 to September 30, 2012 due to the need to obtain groundwater data from newly installed monitoring wells R-61 and R-62 to include in the investigation. NMED understands that both well R-61 and R-62 are affected by impacts from drilling and well construction and therefore data acquired from the wells may not be representative of aquifer conditions. Both wells must be assessed for their ability to produce representative samples and further well development or replacement may be necessary for one or both wells.

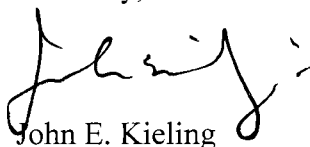


Assessment of the wells and any actions to rehabilitate them will likely not be completed during this federal fiscal year. The Permittees state in the extension request that quarterly sampling of well R-61 has been ongoing since May 2011 and that the data from the second sampling of well R-62 will be available by June 2012. Based on the history of well R-62, the sampling data from this well may not be representative and any conclusions derived from the data obtained from this well may be unreliable. Because any data collected in the near future may not be representative due to the identified problems with well construction, any data quality issues must be discussed in the Report.

Since it is anticipated that the data acquired from the second quarter sampling of newly installed well R-62 will be available by June 2012, the Permittees have shown good cause for an extension that will allow for the inclusion of the second round of groundwater monitoring data from well R-62. NMED hereby approves a time extension to submit the Phase II Investigation Report for Sandia Canyon from April 30, 2012 to **July 31, 2012**.

Please contact Dave Cobrain at (505) 476-6055 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
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P. Maggiore, DOE-LASO, MS A316

File: Reading and LANL 2011 – Sandia Canyon, Phase II Investigation Report