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Hazardous Waste Bureau

Environmental Management
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Date: APR 20 2016

Refer To: ADESH-16-055

LAUR: n/a

Locates Action No.: n/a

John Kieling, 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 to Complete Regional Aquifer Well R-61r

Dear Mr. Kieling:

In response to the New Mexico Environment's Department (NMED's) Approval with Modification for the Drilling Work Plan for Regional Aquifer Well R-61r, dated April 1, 2015, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) request an extension of the June 30, 2016, date for the completion of R-61r to March 30, 2018. Well R-61r is the replacement for R-61. DOE/LANS request this extension under Section III.J.2 of the March 2005 Compliance Order on Consent (Consent Order).

The new proposed date will allow DOE/LANS and NMED to evaluate the large amount of data planned for collection over the next year and a half as part of both the chromium plume control interim measures and chromium plume-center characterization. These data will provide key information that will inform a reconsideration of the location of R-61r identified in NMED's April 1, 2015, letter. Specific examples of key data that may affect the final location for R-61r include monitoring data that will become available from a minimum of five injection wells that will be drilled along the downgradient periphery of the plume; additional monitoring data from newly constructed piezometers within the plume footprint, including one piezometer (CrPZ-1) in the proximity of existing R-61; and capture zone data derived from continuous pumping from CrEX-1 and CrEX-3.

In addition, the installation of R-61r is currently not prioritized within the near-term work scope relative to the 2015 Los Alamos National Laboratory Legacy Cleanup Bridge Contract for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. As DOE/LANS and NMED discuss work prioritization, a new date may be proposed for NMED's consideration.

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If you have any questions, please contact Stephani Swickley at (505) 606-1628 (sfuller@lanl.gov) or Cheryl Rodriguez at (505) 665-5330 (cheryl.rodriguez@em.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



John P. McCann, Acting Division Leader
Environmental Protection & Compliance Division
Los Alamos National Laboratory



David S. Rhodes, Director
Office of Quality and Regulatory Compliance
Environmental Management
Los Alamos Field Office

JM/DH/BR/SS:sm

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