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NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



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Sent Via Electronic Mail

July 18, 2017

Ms. Jody M. Pugh, DOE/NA-LA U.S. Department of Energy Los Alamos Site Office 1347 West Jemez Road, MS-A316 Los Alamos, NM 87544 jody.pugh@nnsa.doe.gov

Mr. John C. Bretzke, EPC Division Director Los Alamos National Security, LLC Los Alamos National Laboratory P.O. Box 1663, MS-K404 Los Alamos, NM 87544 jbretzke@lanl.gov

SUBJECT: Response to Notification of Release ID #2017-435, Los Alamos National Laboratory

Dear Ms. Pugh and Mr. Bretzke:

On January 13, 2017, Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) verbally reported a newly detected exceedance of the groundwater standards to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB). The detection indicates that an unauthorized discharge as defined in Subsection C of 20.6.2.1203 NMAC has occurred, which is subject to reporting and corrective action requirements.

The report identified the following exceedance at the indicated location at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL):

Table with 4 columns: Contaminant, Reported Concentration, 20.6.2.3103 NMAC Standard, Location. Row 1: Nitrate-nitrite as nitrogen, 10.2 mg/L, 10 mg/L, Intermediate Well MCOI-5 in Mortandad Canyon, 695 feet below ground surface.

Groundwater standards are set forth in 20.6.2.3103 NMAC. An observed concentration of nitrate plus nitrite in groundwater is assumed to contain negligible nitrite and as such is compared to the nitrate standard.

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Ms. Pugh and Mr. Bretzke
July 18, 2017
Page 2

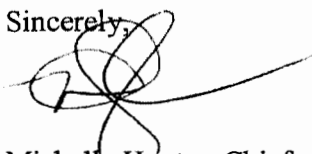
Corrective actions to address the discharge that resulted in this exceedance is reportedly being coordinated with the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB) in accordance with the Compliance Order on Consent (Consent Order) between NMED and the United States Department of Energy for Los Alamos National Laboratory, under the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act § 74-4-10 and the New Mexico Solid Waste Act § 74-9-36(D). **Based on the information in the notification submitted by LANS to GWQB on January 19, 2017, and because corrective actions are being coordinated with HWB under the Consent Order, no further action is required by GWQB at this time for release ID #2017-435.**

Should it be determined that the discharge resulting in these exceedances is not subject to the Consent Order, LANS must submit a corrective action report to GWQB as required under 20.6.2.1203 NMAC.

Nothing in this letter shall be construed as relieving the United States Department of Energy or LANS of the obligation to comply with all other applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, permits, or orders.

If you have any questions, please contact Gerald Knutson at (505) 827-2996.

Sincerely,



Michelle Hunter, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

MH:GK

- cc: Steve Pullen, NMED GWQB
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