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Date: August 28, 2006
Refer to: EP2006-0729

Mr. James Bearzi
NMED-Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATIONS LETTER,
DATED MAY 8, 2006, FOR THE "INTERIM MEASURES WORK PLAN FOR
CHROMIUM CONTAMINATION IN GROUNDWATER"**

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

This letter is a response to the "Approval with Modifications" letter (NMED 2006, 93260) issued by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on May 8, 2006, for the "Interim Measures Work Plan for Chromium Contamination in Groundwater" (LANL 2006, 91987). This response documents the outcome of discussions with NMED during several meetings held in May and June 2006.

The responses are organized to address four categories of comments contained in the approval with modifications letter: (1) required deliverables and schedule, (2) the request for an historical investigation report (HIR), (3) requested changes to the interim measures work plan for the administrative record, and (4) scope.

Deliverables and Schedule

The Laboratory has fulfilled the requirement (comment 14) to submit a work plan for installing a new regional aquifer well, R-35. The work plan was submitted on July 3, 2006 (LANL 2006, 93388) and was subsequently approved by NMED on July 24, 2006 (NMED 2006, 93530).

The Laboratory will submit the interim measures report by November 30, 2006, as described in the fourth bullet in the letter's summary but proposes that the Phase 2 work plan be submitted on January 31, 2007, rather than on December 31, 2006, as requested in sixth bullet. The new due date allows for a notice period of 30 days for NMED's review



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of the report. The Laboratory's due date of January 31, 2007, is contingent upon the 30-day notice period and will be adjusted on a "day-for-day" basis for NMED's submittal of the comments beyond the 30-day notice period.

Historical Investigation Report

Comment numbers 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 each require information to be included in an HIR that is due to NMED on November 30, 2006, concurrently with the interim measures report. On May 16, 2006, an agreement was reached between NMED and the Laboratory that in lieu of an HIR, the requested information will be included as appropriate in the interim measures investigation report, due to NMED on November 30, 2006.

Changes for the Administrative Record

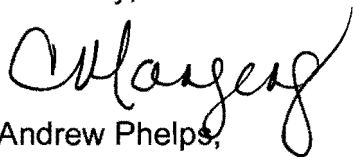
Comment numbers 1, 3, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, and 26 require information that was requested by NMED to be included in a revised interim measures work plan. The Laboratory and NMED agreed on May 16, 2006, that the requested changes did not need to be incorporated into a revised work plan because they would not affect the investigation scope. However, where appropriate, the Laboratory will address comments in the investigation report.

Scope

Comment number 9 states that the interim measures scope should include an investigation of colloids and that the results be included in the interim measures report. The Laboratory and NMED agreed on May 16, 2006, that a colloid investigation would address a detail that is not appropriate for this stage of the investigation.

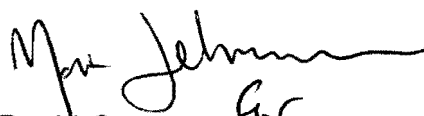
If you have any questions, please contact Danny Katzman at (505) 667-6333 or Mat Johansen at (505) 665-5046

Sincerely,



Andrew Phelps,
Associate Director,
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



David Gregory, *for*
Federal Project Director
Department of Energy
Los Alamos National Laboratory

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