

*Environmental Programs*  
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TAB 5



*National Nuclear Security Administration*  
 Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316  
 Environmental Restoration Program  
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544  
 (505) 667-4255/FAX (505) 606-2132

*Date:* August 15, 2008  
*Refer To:* EP2008-0452

James P. Bearzi, 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 the Plugging and Abandonment Activities at Test Well 8 and MCOBT-4.4**

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

This letter proposes an extension for completion of plugging and abandonment (P&A) activities at TW-8 and MCOBT-4.4. P&A work for these two wells is currently scheduled for completion by August 15, 2008.

The basis for the request for extension is the resource limitations that Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is experiencing from the drilling field campaigns that have been ongoing since spring 2008. These recent campaigns have focused on well rehabilitation (R-33 and R-14) and drilling new wells (R-42, SCI-2, R-37, R-39, R-40, R-25b, and R-25c) and have stressed the availability of drill rigs, field crews, and LANL support.

Deferral of these two P&As will also provide LANL an opportunity to implement the work under the pending master drilling contract (currently on track for award in January 2009). Implementation of the P&As, as well as other drilling projects under the master drilling contract, is expected to provide implementation and cost efficiencies via economy of scale and also provide a substantial boost in available resources through utilization of multiple contractors. Deferral of the P&A projects for TW-8 and MCOBT-4.4 will result in implementation of eight instead of six P&A during fiscal year (FY) 2009. In the interim, LANL does not see any adverse technical consequences by deferring P&A of these two wells into FY2009.

A specific schedule for the P&As will be sent to NMED once the task order is issued. Favorable disposition of this request is greatly appreciated.



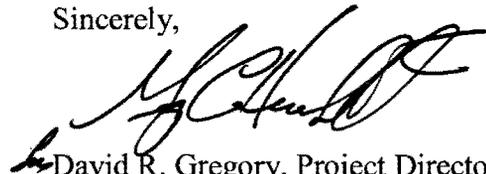
If you have any questions, please contact Danny Katzman at (505) 667-6333 (katzman@lanl.gov) or Nancy Werdel at (505) 665-3619 (nwerdel@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,



Susan G. Stiger, Associate Director  
Environmental Programs  
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



David R. Gregory, Project Director  
Environmental Operations  
Los Alamos Site Office

SS/DG/DK:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX  
Steve Yanicak, NMED-OB, White Rock, NM  
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM  
Alison Bennett, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Nancy Werdel, DOE-LASO, MS A316  
Danny Katzman, EP-LWSP, MS M992  
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EP-LWSP File, MS M992  
RPF, MS M707  
IRM-RMMSO, MS A150 (date-stamped letter emailed)