November 21, 2011

George J. Rael                        Michael J. Graham
Assistant Manager                   Associate Director Environmental Programs
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office             P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
3747 West Jemez Rd, MSA316         Los Alamos, NM 87545
Los Alamos, NM 87544

RE: APPROVAL EXTENSION REQUEST TO SUBMIT THE WORK PLAN FOR WELL SCI-4 LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY EPA ID#NM0890010515 HWB-LANL-11-GW-MISC

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:


The Permittees request the extension to submit the Work Plan due to the need to focus on removal of transuranic (TRU) waste from Technical Area (TA) 54 to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, located in Eddy County, New Mexico. The need to remove TRU waste stored at TA-54 is aligned with Governor Martinez’ policy to prioritize groundwater and surface water protection and accelerate the removal of TRU waste stored at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Because Well SCI-4 will be located upgradient of the chromium plume beneath Sandia and Mortandad Canyons, the Permittees stated cause for the requested time extension is
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acceptable. The submittal date for the Work Plan is hereby postponed from February 15, 2012 to **February 15, 2014**, as requested. NMED may re-evaluate the need for this extension based on the Permittees’ progress in accelerating the removal of TRU waste from TA-54 or if ongoing monitoring indicates that the chromium plume threatens a water supply well or if contaminant concentrations are observed to be increasing. The Permittees must notify NMED, within 30 days of receipt of such information, should funds become available in the future that allow the Work Plan for Well SCI-4 to be submitted prior to February 15, 2014.

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
    N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
    M. Dale, NMED HWB
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File: Reading and LANL 2011 – Groundwater, R-59 Installation