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Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

06
NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
Cabinet Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

JAMES H. DAVIS, Ph.D.
Director
Resource Protection Division

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 29, 2012

Peter Maggiore, Assistant Manager
Environmental Projects Office
Los Alamos Site Office
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATIONS
RESULTS OF 2011 SEDIMENT MONITORING IN THE
PAJARITO CANYON WATERSHED
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-12-026**

Dear Messrs. Maggiore and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security L.L.C.'s (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) *Results of the 2011 Sediment Monitoring in the Pajarito Canyon Watershed* (Report), dated March 2012, received March 28, 2012, and referenced by LA-UR-12-1133 and EP2012-0058. NMED has completed review of the Report and hereby issues this Approval with the following modifications.

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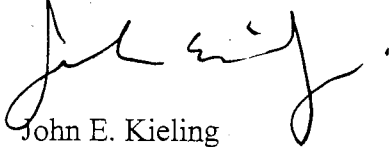


Modifications:

1. For the 2012 Sediment Monitoring in the Pajarito Canyon Watershed report, in addition to providing 2012 sediment sampling data, include all relevant historical sediment data that may be available in the Permittees' database systems. When sufficient data are available, the 2012 report must include statistical summary data (minimum, maximum and mean concentrations) including box and/whisker plots.
2. Several of NMED's soil screening levels (SSLs) were changed when the February 2012 NMED Risk Assessment Guidance for Site Investigations and Remediation (and associated tables) were revised and updated. These revisions affected the SSLs for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The Permittees have recommended dropping PAHs from the Pajarito Canyon sediment monitoring program. Sampling and analyses of PAH compounds must continue in the Pajarito Canyon watershed for at least one more year.
3. The Permittees have recommended dropping isotopic uranium analyses at sediment sampling locations in drainages below Material Disposal Area (MDA) G. This recommendation is based on a limited time-frame where uranium-234 concentrations were below background values (BV). NMED does not agree with the Permittees' recommendation and isotopic uranium analyses must continue for at least one more year in the drainages below MDA G.
4. As required in the 2009 *Sampling and Analysis Plan for Sediment Monitoring in the Pajarito Canyon Watershed*, the 2012 sediment monitoring report must be submitted by or before March 31, 2013.

If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact Daniel Comeau at (505) 476-6043.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

Messrs. Maggiore and Graham
June 29, 2012
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cc: N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
D. Comeau, NMED HWB
M. Dale, NMED HWB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993
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L. King, EPA 6PD-N

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