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JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

November 21, 2011

George J. Rael
Assistant Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
3747 West Jemez Rd, MSA316
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
EXTENSION REQUEST FOR
SUBMITTAL OF THE WORK PLAN FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIONS
POTRILLO/FENCE CANYONS
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-10-101**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Request for Extension to Submit the Work Plan for Additional Investigations in Potrillo/Fence Canyons* (IWP) dated November 10, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0391.

The Permittees request the extension to submit the IWP due to the need to focus efforts on shipment of aboveground 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.

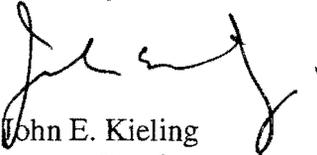
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The Permittees stated cause for the requested time extension is acceptable. The submittal date for the IWP is hereby postponed from February 15, 2012 to **February 15, 2014**, as requested. NMED may re-evaluate the need for this extension based on the Permittees' progress in accelerating removal of TRU waste from TA-54 or if new information becomes available that indicates off-site migration of contamination. The Permittees must notify NMED, within 30 days of receipt of such information, should funds become available in the future that allow for the IWP to be prepared and submitted for the Lower Sandia Canyon Aggregate Area prior to February 15, 2014.

Please contact Neelam Dhawan at (505) 476-6042 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
J. Rice, ADEP, MS A991
P. Maggiore, DOE-LASO, MS A316

File: Reading and LANL 2011 -- Potrillo Fence Canyons IWP