



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

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

March 19, 2012

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
RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE OF DISAPPROVAL
INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR WATER CANYON/CAÑON DE VALLE
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-11-080**

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 Respond to Notice of Disapproval for Investigation Report for Water Canyon/Cañon de Valle*, dated March 8, 2012 and referenced by EP2012-0066.

The Permittees request the extension to submit the investigation report due to budget shortfalls and 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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Messrs. Rael and Graham

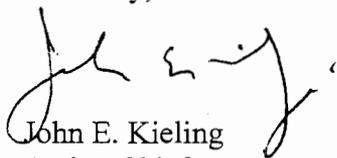
March 19, 2012

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NMED finds the stated cause for the requested time extension is acceptable. The submittal date for the reconnaissance survey results is hereby postponed from May 31, 2012 to **July 30, 2012**, as requested. The submittal date for the response to the Notice of Disapproval and the revised Investigation Report is hereby postponed from March 15, 2012 to **January 31, 2013**, as requested. NMED may re-evaluate the need for these extensions 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 revised Investigation Report to be prepared and submitted for Water Canyon/Cañon de Valle prior to January 31, 2013.

Please contact Daniel Comeau at (505) 476-6043 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
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W. Woodworth, DOE-LASO, MS A316
S. Veenis, EP-CAP, MS A997

File: LANL 2012 – Water Canyon/Cañon de Valle IR NOD Extn. Approvals