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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**

December 5, 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 INVESTIGATION WORK PLAN  
LOWER WATER/INDIO CANYON AGGREGATE AREA  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID#NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-MISC**

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 Investigation Work Plan for Lower Water/Indio Canyon Aggregate Area* dated November 21, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0400.

The Permittees request the extension to submit the investigation work plan 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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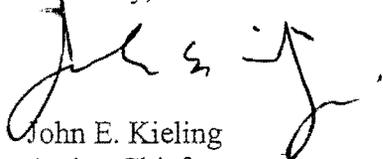


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The Permittees stated cause for the requested time extension is acceptable. The submittal date for the investigation work plan is hereby postponed from September 30, 2012 to **September 30, 2014**, as requested. NMED may re-evaluate the need for this 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 investigation work plan to be prepared and submitted for the Lower Water/Indio Canyon Aggregate Area prior to September 30, 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  
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P. Maggiore, DOE-LASO, MS A316

File: Reading and LANL 2011 – Lower Water/Indio Canyon Aggregate Area IWP