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RON CURRY  
Secretary

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Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

August 31, 2010

George J. Rael  
Federal Project Director  
Los Alamos Site Office  
Department of Energy, NNSA  
3747 West Jemez Road  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael Graham  
Associate Director Environmental Programs  
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.  
P.O. Box 1663, MS 991  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: CLARIFICATION CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENT TO PERFORM A  
RELIABILITY ASSESSMENT  
INTERMEDIATE AQUIFER WELL R-47i  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID#NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-MISC-GW**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Submittal of the Response to the Approval with Direction for the Completion Report for Intermediate Aquifer Well R-47i* (Letter) dated August 9, 2010 and referenced by EP2010-0355. NMED concurs with the Permittees that additional data are needed in order to perform an adequate reliability assessment with respect to sample representativeness and data quality. However, some clarification is needed with reference to R-47i and its capability to produce high quality groundwater data:

1. During the six-casing volume purge, as stated in the Letter, the Permittees must collect and analyze additional time-series samples at the one, three and five casing-volume intervals.

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2. Data collected during the past two rounds of sampling, the time-series sampling event, and the planned December sampling event shall be analyzed and interpreted to determine if well R-47i is capable of producing representative samples. Results, conclusions, and recommendations from the analysis of these data sets must be included in a summary report and submitted to NMED no later than **February 4, 2011**.
3. If it is determined that R-47i is incapable of producing representative samples, the Permittees must submit a work plan to either rehabilitate the well or plug and abandon the well and install a replacement well. Upon approval of the report referenced in Item 2 above, NMED will establish a due date(s) for the submittal of a work plan(s) to rehabilitate or abandon and replace well R-47i, as necessary.

Should you have any questions, please contact Michael Dale of my staff at (505) 661-2673.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:md

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB  
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB  
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894  
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File: '10 Reading and LANL Groundwater General, R-47i Reliability Assessment