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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 18, 2007

David Gregory
Federal Project Director
Los Alamos Site Office, Department of Energy
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

David McInroy
Remediation Services Deputy Project Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop M992
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL OF THE DRILLING WORK PLAN FOR REGIONAL AQUIFER
WELL R-25b
EPA ID #NM0890010515**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the Department of Energy and the Los Alamos National Security, LLC (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Drilling Work Plan for Regional Aquifer Well R-25b*, dated June 29, 2007, and referenced by LA-UR-07-3952 and EP2007-0369 (hereafter, the Work Plan) and hereby issues this approval. Installation of this well provides an opportunity to collect additional information necessary to support the Corrective Measures Evaluation (CME) for intermediate and regional groundwater at 16-021(c)-99 (dated August 2007 and referenced by LA-UR-07-5426 and EP2007-0381). Currently, the CME identifies several key data needs, including infiltration rates, travel times, contaminant flux, and aquifer hydraulic characteristics (e.g., permeability and hydraulic conductivity), but other information such as high explosive compound degradation processes and rates are also needed. Installation of R-25b provides an opportunity to collect some of this necessary information and possibly limit the number of additional wells needed for geochemical and hydraulic property characterization and may provide for the timely implementation of the

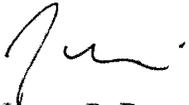


CME. The Permittees are therefore required to take all reasonable steps to identify and collect data regarding the extent, chemistry, and hydraulic properties of any perched zones observed.

Additionally, the Permittees must minimize the use and impact of drilling fluids when drilling this well and develop and sample the well following the procedures and timelines outlined in Section X of the Consent Order. As a reminder, Section X also requires that the Permittees must submit a well fact sheet within 30 days of well completion and a well completion report within 150 days of well completion. The Permittees must also comply with the time constraints for conducting the initial groundwater sampling event after well development is complete. The drilling and development activities must be completed by April 30th, 2008.

Should you have any questions please contact John Young of my staff at (505) 476-6038.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
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