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**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

January 23, 2008

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

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

**RE: APPROVAL FOR THE INVESTIGATION WORK PLAN FOR S-SITE  
AGGREGATE AREA, REVISION 1  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-07-029**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) *Response to the Notice of Disapproval for the Investigation Work Plan for S-Site Aggregate Area Revision 1*, dated December 2007 and referenced by LA-UR-07-8366/EP2007-0796. NMED has reviewed the document and hereby issues this Notice of Approval with the following comments and clarifications.

**General Comment # 7 of the Notice of Disapproval (NOD):** SWMU 16-017(u)-99 is part of consolidated unit 16-013-99 according to the *Aggregate Area List; Maps of TAs, SWMUs/AOCs* submitted to NMED in August 2005. No documentation was provided to indicate that SWMU 16-017(u)-99 had been moved from consolidated unit 16-013-99 to Consolidated Unit 16-029(q)-99. However, as the Permittees pointed out in their response, SWMU 16-017(u)-99 is being investigated as part of Cañon de Valle Aggregate Area; it therefore does not need to be included in this Investigation Work Plan.

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**Specific Comment # 7.a of the NOD:** The Permittees have revised the row indicating that samples will be analyzed for radionuclides, yet the box reads "YesNo". NMED assumes that this is a typographical error. The Permittees will analyze the samples for radionuclides.

**Specific Comment # 7.e of the NOD:** The Permittees state in their response that row 6 in Table 4.0-2 (page 144) has been deleted. In fact, it was not. The sampling strategies for SWMUs 13-001, 16-029(h), 16-031(h), and AOC 16-003(p) are addressed in rows 1, 3, and 4. The Permittees will follow the sampling proposed as in Table 4.2-1.

**Specific Comment # 12 of the NOD:** The Permittees state in their response that 54 surface and sub-surface samples will be collected from 27 locations within the extended drainages between the firing site and debris disposal area and the South Canyon's sampling reach (Figure 4.5-1). NMED understands, based on a telephone conversation on January 17, 2008 with Kim Birdsall of North Wind, Inc., that for all of P-Site, a total of 108 samples are proposed to be collected over 18 transects. Nine of these transects relate to SWMUs 13-001 and 13-002 (firing point and debris disposal area) and the other 9 transects relate to other sites such as the WWTP [SWMUs 16-004(a-f)].

To clarify sampling at these locations, the Permittees subsequently proposed to obtain a total of 216 samples along 36 transects (3 samples each at 2 depths) for the entirety of S-Site. Collection of another 108 samples are proposed along 18 transects related to Fishladder Canyon (2 transects) and S-Site Canyon (16 transects), which extend from the 300s Line locations to north and north-west of K-Site. NMED concurs with this plan.

**Specific Comment # 18 of the NOD:** The Permittees agreed in their response to include cyanide and radionuclides in the analytical suite, but did not revise Table 4.3-1 to reflect the additional analysis. Cyanide and radionuclides will be included in the analytical suite.

**Specific Comments # 23 and 24 of the NOD:** In response to the NOD, the Permittees have proposed additional samples on the south and west sides of building 16-517, and the north and west sides of building 16-516. The proposed sampling locations must be moved to locations outside of the footprint of both buildings to define the lateral extent.

Messrs. Gregory and McInroy  
January 23, 2008  
Page 3

A response to this Notice is not necessary, nor required. The Permittees must submit the investigation report for S-Site Aggregate Area by August 31, 2010. Please contact Neelam Dhawan of my staff at (505) 476-6042 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
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File: LANL, S-Site Aggregate Area (TA-11, -13, -16), 2008