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ENTERED

TA-16

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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Secretary

JON GOLDSTEIN
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 28, 2008

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 A992
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL WITH DIRECTION
DRILLING WORK PLANS FOR WELL CdV-16-3(i) and CdV-R-15-1
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-GROUNDWATER-MISC**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (collectively, the Permittees) documents entitled *Drilling Work Plan for Well CdV-16-3(i)* and *Drilling Work Plan for Well CdV-R-15-1* (hereafter, the Plans) dated March 2008 and referenced by LA-UR-08-1534 and LA-UR-08-1535, respectively. NMED has reviewed the Plans and hereby issues this Approval with the following direction.

If perched groundwater is encountered during drilling of CdV-R-15-1, the Permittees must take all necessary measures to isolate the saturated zones, and collect water samples from all saturated zones for chemical analyses of the full suite of TA-16-related constituents to evaluate potential contamination.

As documented in the well evaluation report for TA-16, both CdV-16-3(i) and CdV-R-15-1 are crucial wells to support the corrective measures evaluation (CME) for cleanup of contaminated



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Messrs. Gregory and McInroy

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groundwater beneath TA-16. Selection of remedies for the intermediate and regional groundwater at TA-16, in part, depends on the availability of reliable groundwater monitoring data collected from these wells. Due to delays and mistakes in the well drilling and groundwater monitoring program at Los Alamos National Laboratory, there is limited time to obtain reliable groundwater monitoring data to support the CME at TA-16 and still meet the March 1, 2005 Compliance Order on Consent milestones. NMED therefore requires the Permittees to accelerate their well drilling schedule to mitigate at least some of the delays. The Permittees must complete the installation of wells CdV-16-3(i) and CdV-R-15-1 no later than January 1 and April 30, 2009, respectively.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Hai Shen of my staff at (505) 476-6039.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi

Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:hs

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file: Reading and LANL General (Groundwater, TA-16)