

TAIL



NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



*Hazardous Waste Bureau*

BILL RICHARDSON  
Governor

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

RON CURRY  
Secretary

DIANE DENISH  
Lieutenant Governor

Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030

JON GOLDSTEIN  
Deputy Secretary

[www.nmenv.state.nm.us](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us)

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

September 26, 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  
Environmental Operations Project Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, MS M992  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL  
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION TO SUBMIT THE WELL COMPLETION  
REPORT FOR THE REPLACEMENT WELLS FOR R-25 SCREENS 1 and 3  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL),  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-08-General**

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, L.L.C.'s (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) *Request for Extension to Submit the Well Completion Report for the Replacement Wells for R-25 Screens 1 and 3*, dated September 16, 2008 and referenced by EP2008-0517.

The Permittees state in the extension request that "[b]eginning the week of July 15, 2008, we encountered the first of several significant technical and mechanical problems, followed by a safety incident that caused more than 27 days of delays to this project." The Permittees asserted that drilling delays and safety incident impacted the drilling of R-25b resulting in the delay of the Well Completion Report submittal. The Permittees have requested a submittal date of October 27, 2008 for the R-25 Well Completion Report.



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NMED recognizes that mechanical and technical problems and the two-week long safety stand-down adversely affected the drilling schedule for the replacement wells. However, the Permittees must have procedures in place to mitigate time lost due to unanticipated problems so that such incidents do not impact the drilling schedule. In the future, the Permittees must address mechanical, technical or safety incidents in a timely manner in order to minimize field delays and meet the associated project deadlines.

NMED nevertheless hereby grants the extension requested by the Permittees. The Well Completion Report for R-25 must be submitted by October 27, 2008.

Please contact Dave Cobrain of my staff at (505) 476-6055 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
K. Roberts, NMED HWB  
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993  
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB  
L. King, EPA 6PD-N  
G. Rael, DOE LASO, MS A316  
S. Stiger ENV MS J591

File: LANL, 2008 General