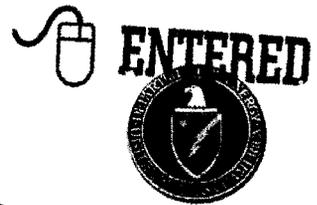




DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



Mr. James Bearzi
Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505



Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The purpose of this letter is to serve as notification for actions proposed within a wetland area at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in accordance with the U. S. Department of Energy's (DOE) *Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements* (10 CFR Part 1022). The DOE National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Los Alamos Site Office proposes to place carbon filters at the head of a natural spring, Burning Ground Springs, as part of its site cleanup activities at LANL. This spring is located within Technical Area-16 along Cañon de Valle. Groundwater discharging to the surface at this point is contaminated with low levels of high explosives residue commonly known as "RDX" (hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5 triazine), and the New Mexico Environment Department has identified the use of carbon filtration as the preferred method of treatment so that spring waters can continue to be used by wildlife present in the area. Part of the water collection box (a type of "weir") and associated intake piping would be located within the wetlands that begin at the spring's head and continue for a short distance down stream; the carbon filter bank would be located to the side of the wetland area, and a discharge pipe would deliver the filtered waters back to the wetland close to the existing spring head location.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022, NNSA has prepared a Floodplain/Wetlands Assessment and will perform these proposed actions in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain and wetland area. Copies of the Floodplain/Wetlands Assessment are available for review electronically on the Internet at: <http://www.lanl.gov/environment/compliance/> and for hard copy review at the Robert J. Oppenheimer Study Center Research Library, located within LANL's Technical Area-3, Los Alamos, New Mexico. The draft document may also be sent to you upon your request by calling Ms. Vicki Loucks at (505) 667-6819.

Any comments about the action are due no later than close of business on September 18, 2009. Written comments should be addressed to Ms. Loucks at: U. S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos Site Office, 3747 West Jemez Road, Los Alamos, NM 87544, or may be submitted by e-mail to: vloucks@doeal.gov, or sent by facsimile to (505) 667-9998. For further information on general DOE floodplain environmental review requirements, contact Mrs. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-20), U.S. Department of Engery, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20585; (202) 586-4600, or leave a message at (800) 472-2756.

Sincerely,

George J. Rael
Assistant Manager
Environmental Operations

EO: 17VL-019

