

TAfile

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NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

*Hazardous Waste Bureau*

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RON CURRY  
Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 8, 2010

George J. Rael  
Environmental Operations Manager  
Los Alamos Site Office  
Department of Energy  
3747 West Jemez Road, Mail Stop A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham  
Associate Director Environmental Programs  
Los Alamos National Security, LLC  
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: DIRECTIONS TO INVESTIGATE  
MAGAZINE AREA A (TA-28) AND MAGAZINE AREA B (TA-29)  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID #NM0890010515**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

In 1943, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) acquired 50,078 acres of land to establish the former Los Alamos Demolition Range (LADR) and the land was subsequently transferred to the United States Department of Energy (DOE). The areas designated as the LADR surround the present city of Los Alamos. The site was used and is still used for nuclear weapons research and development, high explosive testing, modified conventional ordnance testing, and radioactive materials testing. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) generated an Archive Search Report (ASR) for the LADR that identified twenty technical areas (TAs) and nine conventional weapon areas (CWAs) that were used for ordnance activities.

Review of the *Advance Information Packet, Former Los Alamos Demolition Range, Los Alamos County, New Mexico, (January 10, 2010)* provided by USACE indicated that all sites except three are included on the DOE and the Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) current Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. One site, CWA9 is a possible anti-aircraft gun position located on the U.S. Forest Land; no munitions debris was found at the site. The other two sites, Magazine Areas A and B, are located on former TA-28 and TA-29, respectively. Both areas are now part of TA-16. No historical investigations have



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been conducted at these sites.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention produced a *Draft Final Report of the Los Alamos Historical Document Retrieval and Assessment Project* (June 2009). Magazine Areas A and B are listed on the Table 2-1 (page 2-6) of this Report. Magazine Area A is listed as an active site, a firing site 1979, and an explosive storage area. Magazine Area B is listed as explosive storage area that was abandoned in 1957.

The Permittees must search their archival records for information regarding the history and use of Magazine Areas A and B. The Permittees must assign new number designations to these areas of concern (AOCs) and submit the designations as AOCs to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) no later than March 1, 2010. The Permittees must include investigation of these sites in the Upper Water Canyon Aggregate Area Investigation Work Plan that is due to NMED 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: J. Kieling, NMED HWB  
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
K. Roberts, NMED HWB  
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993  
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L. King, EPA 6PD-N  
File: LANL, 2010, TA 16, Magazine Areas A and B.