



BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

DIANE DENISH
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



ENTERED



RON CURRY
Secretary

SARAH COTTRELL
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 3, 2010

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

Michael Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS 991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL
COMPLETION REPORT FOR REGIONAL AQUIFER WELL R-48
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-MISC-GW**

Dear Messrs Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Completion Report for Regional Aquifer Well R-48* (Report) dated February, 2010 and referenced by EP2010-0010. NMED hereby approves the Report, with the following comments.

- 1) **Section 7.2, Well Construction, page 7:** Placement of the single screen at a depth of 150 feet (ft) below the water table is appropriate considering that the aquifer material at and below the water table is very dense with low permeability. We concur with the Permittees that the first permeable strata capable of yielding sufficient groundwater was encountered at a depth of approximately 1,500 ft below ground surface. A single screen at the water table would likely not have been efficient with respect to the capability for proper development and the potential to provide reliable and representative groundwater samples.

33653



- 2) **Section 8.1.1, Well Development Field Parameters, page 8:** As noted in this section, field parameters such as dissolved oxygen and temperature were not collected via the flow-through cell during well development and aquifer-test purging. Section IX.B.2.i.i of the March 1, 2005 Order on Consent (Order) clearly states that the Permittees must measure field parameters using a flow-through cell during purging. The Permittees must adhere to the Order for all future well installations. No revision to the Report is necessary.

Nothing in this letter shall be construed as an abrogation of NMED's rights to pursue enforcement actions against the Permittees for failure to comply with the requirements of the Order.

Should you have any questions, please contact Michael Dale of my staff at (505) 661-2673.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:md

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
K. Roberts, NMED HWB
J. Kulis, NMED HWB
M. Dale, NMED HWB
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894
B. Olson, NMED GWQB
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
D. Katzman, ENG-TECH, MS M992
H. Shen, DOE LASO, MS A316

File: '10 Reading and LANL Groundwater General, R-48 Completion Report