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NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

*Hazardous Waste Bureau*

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ENTERED



RON CURRY  
Secretary

SARAH COTTRELL  
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 22, 2010

George J. Rael  
Federal Project Director  
Los Alamos Site Office  
Department of Energy, NNSA  
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 FOR "CONTAINED-IN" DETERMINATION FOR  
DECONTAMINATION FLUIDS AND ASSOCIATED CONTACT WASTE FROM  
THE DRILLING OF INTERMEDIATE WELL CdV-16-4ip  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID#NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-MISC-GW**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has reviewed the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Request for "Contained-in" Determination for Decontamination Fluids and Associated Contact Waste from the Drilling of Intermediate Well CdV-16-4ip*, dated October 7, 2010 and referenced by ENV-RCRA-10-189.

The Permittees provided a comparison of the maximum detected concentrations of potential F-listed organic compounds with the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) groundwater standards, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and Land Disposal Restrictions (LDRs). The chemical analytical results for the drilling fluids and associated contact waste indicate that low

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concentrations of 2-butanone (MEK), a potentially F-listed constituent, is the only constituent present in the media. Only two applicable comparison standards for MEK are available: LDRs and EPA Regional Screening Level (RSL) for tap water. The maximum concentration of MEK in the media is less than both the LDR and the EPA RSL for tap water. The waste is not a characteristic hazardous waste as defined in 40 CFR 261.21 through 261.24.

Based on the information provided, NMED has determined that the decontamination fluids and contact waste do not need to be managed as hazardous waste. NMED hereby grants the Permittees' request that the decontamination fluids and associated contact waste be managed as non-hazardous waste.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Michael Dale at (505) 661-2673.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:md

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
M. Dale, NMED HWB  
J. Kulis, NMED HWB  
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File: '10 Reading and LANL Contained-In Approval CdV-16-4ip decontamination fluids and contact waste