



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau

SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor
JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

1190 St. Francis Drive
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-2918 Fax (505) 827-2965
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



DAVE MARTIN
Secretary
BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 8, 2013

Mr. Gene Turner, DOE/AIP/POC
U.S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Ms. Alison Dorries, LANS-EP-RS
Los Alamos National Security, LLC
P.O. Box 1663 MS K404
Los Alamos, NM 87545

SUBJECT: Spill Response Assessment and Closure of Release ID# 2012-340 occurring at Monitoring Well R-25, reported to NMED on September 13, 2012

Dear Mr. Turner and Ms. Dorries:

On September 13, 2012, representatives of Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) reported an unauthorized discharge to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) as required by 20.6.2.1203 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) of the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations. The report identified ground water with recently confirmed detection levels of cobalt (CAS No. 7440-48-4) at 0.0512 mg/L in regional aquifer monitoring well R-25 which exceeds the WQCC standard of 0.05 mg/L. This well is associated with the Canon de Valle watershed and has a reported depth to water of 883 feet. The exceedance of the cobalt standard was identified in the report to be associated with degradation of the well's screen, although the basis for this assertion was not provided.

Corrective actions to address this release are reportedly being coordinated with the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB) in accordance with the Compliance Order on Consent (Consent Order), between NMED and the United States Department of Energy and the Regents of the University of California for Los Alamos National Laboratory, under the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act § 74-4-10 and the New Mexico Solid Waste Act § 74-9-36(D). Based on the information in the Release/Discharge Notification submitted by LANS to GWQB on September 14, 2012, in accordance with 20.6.2.1203 NMAC, and because corrective actions are being coordinated with the HWB under the Consent Order, no further action is required at this time for release ID#2012-340.



Mr. Turner and Ms. Dorries
February 8, 2013
p. 2

The GWQB reserves the right to require additional corrective actions not already being required should LANS fail to complete corrective actions to the satisfaction of the HWB. Furthermore, nothing in this letter shall be construed as relieving the United States Department of Energy or LANS of the obligation to comply with all other applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, permits or orders.

If you have any questions, please contact either Jennifer Fullam at (505) 827-2909 or me at (505) 827-0062.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Pruett, Program Manager
Pollution Prevention Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau

JP:JF

cc: Ms. Tori George, LANS/LANL-EP-RS, LLC P.O. Box 1663 MS M992 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545-0001
Tina Sandoval, LANS/ENV-RCRA/WQ, P.O. Box 1663, MS K490, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545-0001
Jake Meadows, LANS/ENV-RCRA/WQ, P.O. Box 1663, MS K490, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545-0001
Sonia Hall, U.S. EPA-R6, Water Enforcement Branch (6EN-WC), 1445 Ross Ave., Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Jennifer Fullam, NMED/GWQB
Richard Powell, NMED/SWQB
Dave Cobrain, NMED/HWB
Steve Yanicak, NMED/DOE/OB
Erik Galloway, NMED/DOE/OB