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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

August 17, 2006

David Gregory
Federal Project Director
Los Alamos Site Office
Department of Energy
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

David McInroy
Remediation Services Deputy Program Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop M992
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: NOTICE OF APPROVAL
PROPOSAL TO DRILL BOREHOLES TO SUPPORT THE CORRECTIVE
MEASURES STUDY AND REMEDY SELECTION AT SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT UNIT (SWMU) 16-021(c)
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY, EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-03-021**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the *Response to Informal Request for Supplemental Information on the TA-16-260 Outfall [Consolidated Unit 16-021(c)-99] Corrective Measure Study* referenced by ER2006-0435. The Department of Energy and the Los Alamos National Security (collectively, the Permittees) propose several activities to support remedy selection as part of the corrective measures for the surge bed area at SWMU 16-021(c). NMED has reviewed the proposal and has the following comments.

The Permittees propose to drill 3 boreholes to determine the extent of the highly-contaminated surge bed located at a depth of 17.5 feet. The boreholes will be located northwest, southwest, and east of borehole 16-2700. NMED concurs with the locations with the exception of the southwestern location. NMED believes the Permittees are more likely to encounter the



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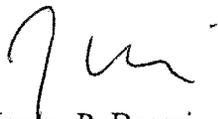
contaminated surge bed if the borehole was located further to the northwest (approximately 40 feet). This location is closer to the pond, outfall, and previously-detected contamination. NMED recognizes that the exact location of this borehole is dependent on the terrain and access of the drilling equipment. The Permittees are reminded that the proposed 3 boreholes are the minimum number and additional boreholes may be needed to determine the extent of contamination. If the surge bed is not encountered during drilling, the Permittees must notify NMED to discuss alternate drilling locations.

The Permittees propose to field screen each boring at 5-foot intervals in the upper 15 feet and at 2-foot intervals in the lower 10 feet, as well as in any intervals containing surge beds. The Permittees also propose to collect laboratory samples from the deepest interval and the interval showing the highest explosive compounds detections based on field screening. Instead, the Permittees must collect continuous core samples for field screening and collect one additional laboratory sample in the interval directly above the surge bed. The additional sample is intended to confirm that the contamination is bounded by relatively uncontaminated tuff and is limited to the surge bed.

The Permittees propose to use the sampling protocols, operating procedures, and waste management methods as those in the approved *Investigation Work Plan for Consolidated Solid Waste Management Units 16-007(a)-99 (30s Line) and 16-008(a)-99 (90s Line) at TA-16*. NMED concurs with the use of these procedures and methods. However, NMED believes the Permittees should not plug and abandon the boreholes until analytical data is received unless the boreholes are potential conduits for migration of contaminated groundwater to deeper zones. These Permittees may use these boreholes during the remedy implementation or to collect additional data.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Darlene Goering of my staff at (505) 428-2542.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi

Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:dxg

cc: D. Goering, NMED HWB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993
L. King, EPA 6PD-N

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file: Reading and LANL TA-16 '06