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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 22, 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: CONTAINED-IN DETERMINATION FOR THE PURGED ALLUVIAL
GROUNDWATER COLLECTED DURING THE QUARTERLY SAMPLING OF
MONITORING WELLS ASSOCIATED WITH CONSOLIDATED UNIT 16-
021(c)-99 INVESTIGATION WITHIN TECHNICAL AREA 16
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY, EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-03-021**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has reviewed the Department of Energy and the Los Alamos National Security's, LLC (collectively, the Permittees) request for a contained-in determination for purged alluvial groundwater containing F-listed hazardous waste. The purged water was generated during the quarterly sampling of alluvial monitoring wells in Cañon de Valle, Martin Spring Canyon, and Fishladder Canyon and is associated with consolidated unit 16-021(c) and building 16-340. As part of the request, the Permittees provided a comparison of the detected F-listed constituents in each sample with the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) standards, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), and the EPA Region 6 human health tap water screening level. The F-listed constituents that were detected are toluene, tetrachloroethene, acetone, methylene chloride, and trichloroethene. All of the detections for these constituents are



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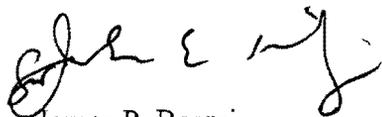
below the WQCC standards, MCLs, and human health tap water screening level (acetone only). The waste does not exhibit a characteristic, as defined in 40 C.F.R. Subpart C. Based on this information, NMED believes that the purge water does not need to be managed as F-listed waste.

The Permittees also request a determination that land disposal restrictions (LDR) do not apply to the purged water and that it may be managed and disposed as a nonhazardous wastewater. The Permittees provided a comparison of the F-listed constituents detected in the purged water with the LDR treatment standards. All of the detections are below the LDR treatment standards. Therefore, based on the low levels of toluene, tetrachloroethene, acetone, methylene chloride, and trichloroethene, LDRs do not apply to the purged water and it may be managed and disposed as nonhazardous waste water.

If additional F-listed constituents are detected during future sampling activities or if the constituents discussed above are detected at concentrations above cleanup standards or LDRs, the Permittees must request another contained-in determination or manage the purged water as a hazardous waste.

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
J. Ordaz, DOE LASO, MS A316
K. Hargis, LANL RRES/DO, MS M591
N. Quintana, LANL RRES-RS, MS M992
file: Reading and [REDACTED] and 16-021(c))