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Date: June 9, 2006
Refer to: ER2006-0534

Mr. James Bearzi
NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

RECEIVED
2006
Hazardous
Waste Bureau

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION FOR THE INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR CONSOLIDATED UNIT 21-018(A)-99, MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA V, AT TECHNICAL AREA 21

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) requests an extension for submittal of "Investigation Report for Consolidated Unit 21-018(a)-99, Material Disposal Area V, at Technical Area 21" to allow time for additional remediation and confirmation sampling at one of the sites within the consolidated unit. Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 21-023(c) is a former septic system that served a waste research laboratory (Building 21-33) from 1945 to 1965. Although SWMU 21-023(c) has already undergone a removal action, as specified in the approved work plan, radionuclides remain significantly above residential screening action levels (SALs) in a subset of confirmation samples collected within the outfall drainage.

The initial removal action, conducted in April 2006, was accomplished using a vacuum truck to remove the pockets of loose sediment associated with the outfall, which is steep and rocky. Preliminary results from confirmation samples collected following the removal indicate that americium-241 and plutonium-239 exceed SALs (30 pCi/g for americium-241 and 33 pCi/g for plutonium-239) in two discrete areas within the drainage. Above SAL results in confirmation samples range from 48.2 to 398 pCi/g for americium-241 and 31.3 to 183 pCi/g for plutonium-239. LANL would like to ensure clean-up goals are met before submitting the investigation report, a Consent Order deliverable due July 22, 2006. To achieve this goal, we are proposing additional sediment removal, again using the vacuum truck, followed by confirmation sampling.

To allow time for the additional removal and sampling at SWMU 21-023(c), LANL requests an extension to October 31, 2006, a total of 101 days from the current due date for the Consolidated Unit 21-018(a)-99 investigation report.

If you have questions, please contact Becky Coel-Roback at (505) 665-5011 (becky_cr@lanl.gov) or Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lwoodworth@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

Andrew Phelps, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,

David Gregory, Federal Project Director
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Site Office

BCR/jk

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TA-21 File, MS C349
RPF, MS M707
IM-9, MS A150