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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 24, 2009

David Gregory
Federal Project Director
Los Alamos Site Office
Department of Energy
3747 West Jemez Road, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

David McInroy
Remediation Services Deputy Project Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS M992
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: NOTICE OF DISAPPROVAL
VADOSE ZONE SUBSURFACE CHARACTERIZATION AND VAPOR-
MONITORING WELL INSTALLATION WORK PLAN FOR MATERIAL
DISPOSAL AREA V, CONSOLIDATED UNIT 21-018(a)-99
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-MISC**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the Los Alamos National Laboratory's, L.L.C.'s (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) *Vadose Zone Subsurface Characterization and Vapor-Monitoring Well Installation Work Plan for Material Disposal Area V, Consolidated Unit 21-018(a)-99* (Plan), dated May 2009 and referenced by LA-UR-09-3021/EP2009-0257. The NMED has reviewed the Plan and hereby issues this Notice of Disapproval (NOD).



Specific Comments:

1. Drilling Approach, page 3:

NMED Comment: This Section describes the approach for installation of the vapor-monitoring well at Material Disposal Area (MDA) V. The Permittees have outlined ten steps included in the installation process. However, it appears that items one (Measure and record the TD of the borehole after slough is removed) and two (Add bentonite pellets, hydrate using potable water, measure and record the depth) have been repeated on the following page. The Permittees must revise the text to remove the repetitive language in this Section.

2. Abandonment of Borehole 21-02523, page 2:

NMED Comment: The Permittees have proposed to abandon borehole 21-02523 at MDA V so that the area can be prepared for staging activities associated with the field work at MDA B. NMED will allow abandonment of this borehole; however, NMED may require the Permittees to replace this borehole to support future vapor-monitoring activities at TA-21.

Additionally, the Permittees must revise Figure 1 to include the location of borehole 21-02523.

3. Table 1, MDA V Tentative Drilling Schedule, page 9:

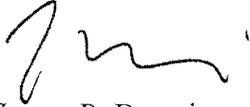
NMED Comment: The Permittees must provide in the text or in Table 1 the rationale for the tentative drilling schedule. Additionally, the Permittees must explain whether or not complications in drilling and vapor-monitoring well installation were taken into account when calculating the drilling and sampling schedule. The Permittees must revise the text or Table 1 where appropriate.

The Permittees must address all comments and submit a revised Plan by August 21, 2009. All submittals (including maps) must be in the form of two paper copies and one electronic copy in accordance with Section XI.A of the Order. In addition, the Permittees shall submit a redline-strikeout version that includes all changes and edits to the Plan (electronic copy) with the response to this NOD.

Messrs. Gregory and McInroy
July 24, 2009
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Please contact Kathryn Roberts at (505) 476-6041 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
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File: Reading and LANL 2009 TA-21 (SWMU 21-018(a)-99)