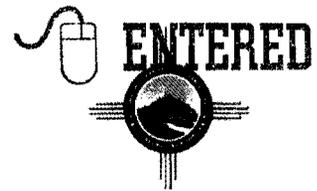


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Date: **JAN 14 2011**
 Refer To: EP2011-0040

James Bearzi, Bureau Chief
 Hazardous Waste Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
 Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

Subject: Extension Request for the Submittal of Work Plans Implementing the Technical Area 21 Vadose Zone and Groundwater Monitoring Network Enhancements

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) December 2, 2010, letter, "Approval with Modifications (for the) Technical Area 21 Monitoring Well Network Evaluation and Recommendations" (the Approval with Modifications), establishes submittal dates for work plans for well installations, well plugging and abandonment, and well conversions. As discussed in the January 6, 2011, meeting with NMED, the U.S. Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (collectively, the Laboratory) will submit the work plan to install MW-10 and MW-14 and the work plan to plug and abandon Test Well (TW) 3 and install TW-3r to NMED on January 14, 2011, established in the Approval with Modifications. The work plans for MW-10 and MW-14 were combined because the installation procedures will be the same.

As discussed in the January 6, 2011, meeting with NMED and documented in Michael Dale's January 6, 2011, e-mail to Danny Katzman, NMED concurs that TW-3r will be a single-screened regional aquifer water-table well located near O-4 instead of a two-screened well as directed in NMED's December 2, 2010, letter.

While we can meet the deadlines in NMED's December 2, 2010, letter for the four work plans discussed above, the Laboratory requests that NMED approve the following changes to the schedules for the following two work plans:

January 28, 2011, submittal date—*Work plan describing the methods and procedures for the redevelopment and conversion of multiscreened wells R-5, R-7, R-8, and R-9i.* These wells are currently used to monitor for tritium, and they provide representative samples. As discussed in the January 6, 2011, meeting with NMED, the Laboratory proposes that NMED's request be revisited after the reliability assessment of multiscreened Westbay wells has been performed. The Laboratory's January 14, 2011 extension request for the Westbay reliability assessment proposes a July 29, 2011, report submittal date. We believe NMED's



review of the Westbay reliability assessment will provide key insights for evaluating the potential need for the redevelopment, conversion, or replacement of monitoring wells R-5, R-7, R-8, and R-9i. Within 60 days of receiving NMED's comments on the Westbay reliability assessment, the Laboratory will propose a path forward for these wells.

February 25, 2011, submittal date—*Work plan for the design of the installation for proposed vapor- and moisture-monitoring wells at Material Disposal Area (MDA) T.* The Laboratory requests a new submittal date of July 15, 2011. This date will allow the Laboratory to evaluate moisture monitoring technologies currently being used in industry and to assess their application to the design objectives for baseline and long-term performance monitoring of the vadose-zone moisture regime at MDA T. The Laboratory also proposes investigating the use of dedicated, automated sensor technology rather than periodic manual measurements (such as neutron monitoring). This evaluation will require a thorough review of technologies to determine which best suite the monitoring needs at MDA T and may include possible off-site visits.

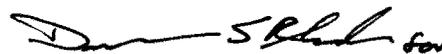
Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Worth at (505) 606-0398 (eworth@doeal.gov) or Paul Huber at (505) 412-7673 (huberpr@lanl.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael J. Graham, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



George J. Rael, Manager
Environmental Projects Office
Los Alamos Site Office

MG/GR/PH/BW:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
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Bruce Schappell, EP-ARRA Project, MS C348 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Paul Huber, EP-TA-21 Closure Project, MS C349 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Bill Criswell, EP-TA-21 Closure Project, MS C349 (date-stamped letter emailed)
John Bennett, EP-TA-21 Closure Project, MS C349 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Victoria George, EP-REG, MS M991 (date-stamped letter emailed)
William Alexander, EP-BPS, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
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