



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 24, 2011

George J. Rael
Assistant Manager
Los Alamos Site Office
U.S. Department of Energy
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Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, LLC
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL
EXTENSION REQUEST FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF WORK PLANS
IMPLEMENTING THE TECHNICAL AREA 21 VADOSE ZONE AND
GROUNDWATER MONITORING NETWORK ENHANCEMENTS
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-10-046**

Dear Messrs Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security (LANS), L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) *Extension Request for the Submittal of Work Plans Implementing the Technical Area 21 Vadose Zone and Groundwater Monitoring Network Enhancements* (Request) dated January 14, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0040. In the Request, the Permittees request extensions of the due dates for submittal of two work plans required in NMED's *Approval with Modifications Technical Area 21 Monitoring Well Network Evaluation and Recommendations*, dated December 2, 2010.

The first work plan is to propose the methods and procedures for redevelopment and conversion of the Westbay wells R-5, R-7, R-8, and R-9i, located near Technical Area 21 (TA-21). The due date for this work plan is January 28, 2011. The Permittees propose to delay the submittal of the work plan to allow for sufficient time to evaluate data and information derived from the Westbay reliability assessment that is currently being

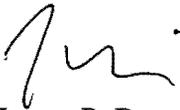


conducted at several Westbay wells located at and in the vicinity of Technical Area 16 (TA-16). NMED concurs with the rationale and hereby grants the postponement of submittal of this work plan until **July 1, 2011**. If the TA-16 Westbay-well reliability assessment indicates that rehabilitation of the wells is not a viable option, then the Permittees must propose an alternate approach for assessment and rehabilitation and replacement of the TA-21 area Westbay wells, as necessary, in the work plan.

The second work plan is specific to the design and installation of vapor- and moisture-monitoring wells at Material Disposal Area T. The due date for the work plan is February 25, 2011. The Permittees request a new submittal date of July 15, 2011 based on the need for additional time to evaluate more current and up-to-date technologies, and to assess the design objectives for baseline and long-term performance monitoring of the vadose zone beneath MDA T. The Permittees also propose to investigate the use of dedicated, automated sensor technology rather than periodic manual measurements at these monitoring locations. The Permittees have shown good cause and NMED hereby grants an extension for the submittal of the work plan from February 25, 2011 to **July 15, 2011**.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Michael Dale at (505) 661-2673.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:md

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
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File: '11 Reading Work Plans TA-21 Vadose Zone and Groundwater Monitoring Network,
Approval Extension Request