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**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

November 21, 2011

George J. Rael
Assistant Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
3747 West Jemez Rd, MSA316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

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

**RE: APPROVAL
EXTENSION REQUEST FOR WATER APPLICATION TO BERMED AREA
AND THE INSTALLATION AND INSTRUMENTATION OF SIX BOREHOLES
AT TECHNICAL AREA 21 FOR VADOSE ZONE MOISTURE MONITORING
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-11-GW-MISC**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Request for Extension for Water Application to Bermed Area and the Installation and Instrumentation of Six Boreholes at Technical Area 21 for Vadose Zone Moisture Monitoring* (Request) dated November 10, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0387.

The Permittees request the extension to complete the installation and instrumentation of six boreholes to monitor vadose zone moisture content and the water application to the bermed area for the purpose of evaluating water infiltration at Technical Area (TA) 21 due to the need to focus on removal of transuranic (TRU) waste from TA-54 to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, located in Eddy County, New Mexico. The need to remove TRU waste stored at TA-54 is aligned with Governor Martinez' policy to prioritize

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groundwater and surface water protection and accelerate the removal of TRU waste stored at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The Permittees stated cause for the requested time extension is acceptable. The completion dates for the water application and the installation of the six boreholes with instrumentation are hereby postponed from January 31 and July 31, 2012 to **January 31 and July 31, 2014**, respectively, as requested. NMED may re-evaluate the need for this extension based on the Permittees' progress in accelerating the removal of TRU waste from TA-54 or if new information arises that indicates that contaminant concentrations are increasing in the subsurface beneath TA-21. The Permittees must notify NMED, within 30 days of receipt of such information, should funds become available in the future that allow the water application to the bermed area and the installation of the six boreholes with instrumentation to be completed prior to the specified completion dates.

Please contact Dave Cobrain at (505) 476-6055 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
M. Dale, NMED HWB
J. Kulis, NMED HWB
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P. Maggiore, DOE-LASO, MS A316

File: Reading and LANL 2011 – Groundwater, TA-21 Vadose Zone Moisture Monitoring