



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
www.nmenv.state.nm.us

ENTERED



DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

JAMES H. DAVIS, Ph.D.
Director
Resource Protection Division

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 31, 2012

Peter Maggiore
Assistant Manager, Env. Projects Office
Los Alamos Site Office, DOE
3747 West Jemez Rd, MS A316
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 WITH MODIFICATIONS
COMPLETION REPORT FOR REGIONAL AQUIFER WELL R-66
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-12-024**

Dear Messrs Maggiore 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 *Completion Report for Regional Aquifer Well R-66* (Report) dated April 2012 and referenced by EP2012-0060. The Report was received on April 12, 2012. NMED has reviewed the Report, and hereby issues this approval with the following modifications.

1. Appendix B, Section B-2.3, Field Parameters, page B-2:

As presented in this section, the specific conductance measurements range from 22.3 to 41.7 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, much lower than what would be expected for the regional aquifer. These low values are likely due to instrument malfunction and/or the unit of measurement is in error. Total dissolved solids concentrations as shown in Appendix B (see Table B-2.3-1) averaged about 0.18 g/L or 180 mg/L which would correspond to a calculated specific conductance of approximately 280 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, suggesting that the presented specific conductance values contain a

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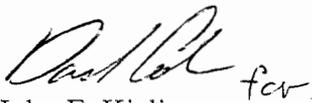
decimal point error. For future completion reports, the Permittees must ensure that data are presented correctly.

2. General Comment:

Although not presented in the Report, it is our understanding that the presence of oil, or something similar (e.g., diesel), was produced from the well during development. As stated in Section B-2.2.3 (Appendix B) of the Report, toluene and bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate were detected in groundwater from a sample collected during well development. Toluene was detected at 2.81 mg/L, exceeding Environmental Protection Agency's drinking-water Maximum Contaminant Level (1.0 mg/L) and New Mexico's Water Quality Control Commission standard of 0.75 mg/L. These results suggest that some type of organic-based foreign material was likely present in the groundwater at R-66. In order to assess the presence of such material, the Permittees must closely monitor water-quality results and sample quality at R-66, and report any unusual findings to NMED in the corresponding monthly groundwater data review report.

Please contact Michael Dale at (505) 661-2673 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
B. Wear, NMED HWB
J. Kulis, NMED HWB
M. Dale, NMED HWB
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
J. Schoepner, NMED GWQB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
S. Rydeen, San Ildefonso Pueblo
J. Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo
T. Ball, EP-CAP, MS M996
H. Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
W. Woodworth, DOE-LASO, MS A316

File: Reading and LANL 2012 – R-66 Completion Report