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Date: April 6, 2010  
Refer To: ENV-RCRA-10-070  
LA-UR: 10-02080

Mr. William Olson, Chief  
Ground Water Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Harold Runnels Building, Room N2250  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502



Dear Mr. Olson:

**SUBJECT: TEMPORARY PERMISSION TO DISCHARGE R-49 DEVELOPMENT WATER NOT REQUIRED, WATER MEETS LAND APPLICATION CRITERIA**

Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) is in receipt of your March 26, 2010, letter granting temporary permission to discharge development water from monitoring well R-49 to the Technical Area (TA)-46 Sanitary Wastewater Systems (SWWS) Plant. Your prompt response to our March 8, 2010, request is greatly appreciated. Regretfully, after receiving your approval letter the Laboratory discovered that the wrong iron data was submitted to your agency in our March 8<sup>th</sup> request (ENV-RCRA-10-050, Enclosure 1, *Summary of All Detections*); the reported iron concentration of 1260 µg/L was from an unfiltered sample and, accordingly, represents the concentration of total iron in the sample. The concentration of dissolved iron in a corresponding filtered sample was 221 µg/L. Because the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission standards for ground water apply to the dissolved portion of iron in a sample, the filtered iron value should have been reported, not the total iron concentration.

The Laboratory's request for temporary permission to discharge R-49 development water to the TA-46 SWWS Plant was founded on the assumption that the concentration of iron (1260 µg/L) exceeded the limit for land application (900 µg/L) established by the Drilling, Development, Rehabilitation, and Sampling Purge Water Decision Tree (03/12/2010). The subsequent discovery that the filtered iron concentration (221 µg/L) is below the allowable limit—along with all other water quality criteria from Decision Point D6 of the Decision Tree—means that the Laboratory can dispose of the R-49 development water by land application rather than discharge to the TA-46 SWWS Plant. In conclusion, it is the Laboratory's intention to proceed with land application of the R-49 development water as soon as the necessary administrative and site preparations have been completed.



Please contact me at (505) 667-7969 if you have questions regarding this information.

Sincerely,



Robert Beers  
Water Quality & RCRA Group

BB/lm

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