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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

November 9, 2009

David Gregory
Federal Project Director
Los Alamos Site Office, Department of Energy
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

David McInroy
Remediation Services Deputy Project Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop M992
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATIONS
DRILLING WORK PLANS FOR REGIONAL AQUIFER WELLS R-29 AND R-30,
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-GW-MISC**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C. and U.S. Department of Energy (the Permittees) document entitled *Drilling Work Plans for Regional Aquifer Wells R-29 and R-30* (Plan) dated October 16, 2009 and referenced by EP2009-0518 and EP2009-0519, respectively.

Pursuant to Section III.M.2 of the March 1, 2005 Order on Consent (Order), NMED has reviewed the Plan and hereby issues this Approval with the following modifications.

1. If perched intermediate groundwater is encountered during the drilling of either R-29 or R-30, the Permittees must notify NMED by phone or email within one business day of each such occurrence and shall minimize the impact of bentonite and drilling fluids on the perched horizon. If NMED determines that the perched water horizon requires monitoring, the Permittees shall install a well screened in that horizon in the associated boring or at a separate nearby location approved by NMED. If the Permittees choose to install the intermediate well in the R-29 and R-30 boreholes, they shall include the intermediate wells in the proposed design for R-29 and/or R-30. If the Permittees opt to install the intermediate well at a separate location, they shall submit to NMED a drilling work plan for the intermediate well no later than 30 days after the completion of the associated regional well (R-29 or R-30).

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2. Installation of R-29 and R-30 must comply with the applicable New Mexico Office of the State Engineer requirements for *Well Driller Licensing; Constructing, Repair and Plugging of Wells* (19.27.4. NMAC).
3. A typographical error, as bolded, exists in the R-29 work plan, first bullet of the *Groundwater Characterization Sampling* section: "Groundwater samples will be collected from the completed well between 10 and 60 d after well development, in accordance with the Compliance Order on **Order**".

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

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:md

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file: Reading and LANL Groundwater General, Drilling Work Plans for R-29 and R-30