



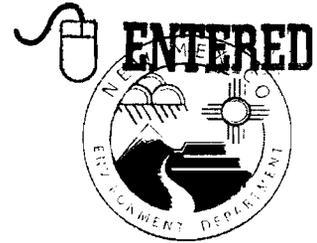
BILL RICHARDSON
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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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RON CURRY
Secretary

SARAH COTTRELL
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 15, 2010

George J. Rael
Environmental Operations Manager
Los Alamos Site Office
Department of Energy
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS 991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL
REPRIORITIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2010 MONITORING WELLS
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-MISC-GW**

Dear Messrs Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) letter entitled *Reprioritization of Remaining Fiscal Year 2010 Monitoring Wells* (Letter), dated May 26, 2010 and referenced by EP2010-0260. The Letter requests a temporary suspension of the requirement to drill regional aquifer well R-58, designated as the Buckman Well Field Sentinel, and proposes an alternate approach for contaminant monitoring at the Buckman Well Field. The Letter also requests an extension of time for the installation of regional well R-59, to October 31, 2010.

The Permittees submitted the drilling work plan for R-60 to NMED on June 1, 2010, which effectively exchanges the submittal dates for the drilling work plans for R-59 and R-60. NMED hereby approves the drilling work plan for R-60, which proposes a completion date of October 31, 2010. Additionally, in accordance with NMED's Approval with Modifications for the MDA C Phase III Work Plan dated May 11, 2010, the drilling work plan for R-59 must be submitted to NMED no later than **October 1, 2010**.



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Finally, in a letter dated May 25, 2010, the City of Santa Fe agreed that it is appropriate for the Permittees to conduct a groundwater study at the Buckman Wellfield utilizing existing piezometers prior to installing a sentinel well at the Buckman Wellfield. The study will be used to determine the adequacy of the existing monitoring network and the need and appropriate location for an additional monitoring well at the Buckman Wellfield. Therefore, NMED hereby approves the request to temporarily suspend the requirement to drill R-58 with the following requirement.

The Permittees must submit a work plan specific to the implementation of the alternate approach for enhanced monitoring at the Buckman Well Field. The work plan must, at a minimum, address:

- a) the scope of activities and schedule for implementing the alternate monitoring approach,
- b) the reliability of the Permittees' current groundwater monitoring network with respect to the Buckman Well Field,
- c) the capability of the alternate monitoring approach to further characterize the groundwater flow regime in the Buckman Well Field, and
- d) the dependability of the alternate monitoring approach to detect contamination and provide long-term monitoring for the well field.

The work plan must be submitted to NMED no later than **July 30, 2010**.

Nothing in this letter shall be construed as an abrogation of NMED's rights to pursue enforcement actions against the Permittees for failure to comply with the requirements of the Order.

Messrs. Rael and Graham
June 15 2010
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Should you have any questions, please contact Michael Dale of my staff at (505) 661-2673.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:md

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File: '10 Reading and LANL Groundwater General, R-58 and Buckman Well Field Piezometers