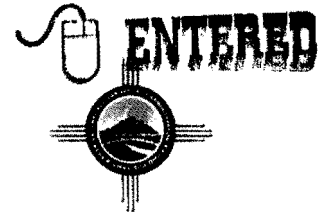


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Date: **AUG 19 2011**
Refer To: EP2011-0282

John Kieling, Acting Bureau Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

Subject: Extension Request for Submittal of Proposed Location for Well R-59

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Los Alamos National Security (LANS), LLC, and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) request an extension to the August 31, 2011, due date for submitting a proposed location for regional well R-59 near Material Disposal Area (MDA) C. The purpose of this extension request is to provide the time to receive and evaluate any New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) comments on the Phase III investigation report for MDA C regarding the need for well R-59.

On May 23, 2011, LANS and DOE submitted a letter to NMED requesting the due date for the proposed location of R-59 be extended from May 31, 2011, to August 31, 2011. This request was based on a May 19, 2011, meeting with NMED to discuss the results of water-level data and groundwater and vapor monitoring data being used to evaluate potential locations for R-59. At this meeting, NMED, LANS, and DOE agreed to defer selecting a location for R-59 until after the Phase III investigation report for MDA C, which was due on June 30, 2011, had been submitted to and reviewed by NMED. NMED indicated that LANS and DOE should request an extension until August 31, 2011, to submit the proposed location. NMED approved this extension request was approved on June 1, 2011.


The Phase III investigation report for MDA C, which was submitted on July 15, 2011, because of delays associated with the Las Conchas wildfire force majeure event, recommended that well R-59 not be installed for detection-monitoring purposes at this time. To date, NMED has not yet provided LANS and DOE with comments on the Phase III investigation report. LANS and DOE therefore request an extension of 61 days, until October 31, 2011, to submit a proposed location for well R-59 should NMED determine, based on its review of the Phase III investigation report, that this well is necessary. This extension will provide NMED the time to complete its review of the Phase III investigation report and LANS and DOE to evaluate data needed to select a location for R-59, if necessary.

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If you have any questions, please contact Stephani Swickley at (505) 606-1628 (sfuller@lanl.gov) or Cheryl Rodriguez at (505) 665-5330 (crodriguez2@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael J. Graham, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



George J. Rael, Assistant Manager
Environmental Projects Office
Los Alamos Site Office

MG/GR/DM/SS:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamped letter emailed)
Cheryl Rodriguez, DOE-LASO, MS A316 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Stephani Swickley, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Dave McInroy, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991 (date-stamped letter emailed)
William Alexander, EP-BPS, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
RPF, MS M707 (electronic copy)
Public Reading Room, MS M992 (hard copy)