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ENTERED



SUSANA MARTINEZ  
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ  
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

*Hazardous Waste Bureau*

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DAVE MARTIN  
Cabinet Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE  
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 6, 2012

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: DIRECTION TO MODIFY  
REQUEST TO ABANDON BOREHOLE 50-24817 AT MATERIAL DISPOSAL  
AREA C, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT 50-009  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL)  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-11-050**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security L.L.C.'s (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) *Request to Abandon Borehole 50-24817 at Material Disposal Area C, Solid Waste Management Unit 50-009* (Request), dated February 23, 2012 and referenced by EP2012-0053. NMED has reviewed the Request and hereby issues this Direction to Modify.

In the Request, the Permittees state that the protective surface casing on the borehole was damaged by snow removal equipment and that, because the borehole is no longer used for monitoring, the Laboratory wishes to abandon it rather than replace the surface casing.

Based on the Permittees' assertion that budget limitations require significant reductions to the groundwater and pore-gas monitoring programs, NMED has evaluated the estimated costs of the Permittees' proposed abandonment by cement grout injection relative to the option of replacing the surface casing. NMED has concluded that it is more cost effective to replace the surface casing of borehole 50-24817 rather than to abandon the boring at this time.

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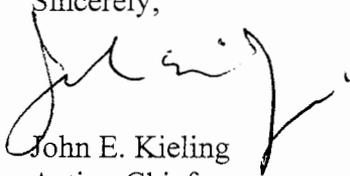
Messrs. Rael and Graham  
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The Permittees are therefore directed to replace the surface casing of borehole 50-24817 at Material Disposal Area C, in lieu of abandonment, by **April 13, 2012**. A flush mounted casing or installation of a below-grade traffic-rated vault would reduce the likelihood of future damage. The funds saved by implementing this more cost effective solution should be directed to the groundwater monitoring associated with the Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan.

The Permittees must submit a letter describing the repairs made to the surface casing by **April 27, 2012**. All submittals (including maps) must be in the form of two paper copies and one electronic copy in accordance with Section XI.A of the Order.

Please contact Ben Wear at (505) 476-6041 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling  
Acting Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc:

D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
B. Wear, NMED HWB  
J. Kulis, NMED HWB  
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L. King, EPA 6PD-N  
S. Swickley, EP-CAP, MS M992  
C. Rodriguez, DOE-LASO, MS A316  
P. Maggiore, DOE-LASO, MS A316

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