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RON CURRY
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DEPUTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 23, 2005

David Gregory, Federal Project Director
Los Alamos Site Office
Department of Energy
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

G. Pete Nanos, Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A100
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: RESPONSE TO APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATIONS,
INVESTIGATION WORK PLAN FOR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA C,
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT 50-009, AT TECHNICAL AREA
50, REVISION 1, DATED APRIL 6, 2005, LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL
LABORATORY (LANL), EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-03-005**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and Nanos:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the Response to the Approval with Modifications for the *Investigation Work Plan for Material Disposal Area (MDA) C, Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 50-009, at Technical Area 50*, dated May 12, 2005. In the response, the Permittees requested an extension to the schedule for completing the investigation activities at MDA C.

As the Permittees are aware, there have been ongoing negotiations regarding the scope of work at MDA C. In fact, prior to the submittal of the May 12, 2005 response, Department of Energy (DOE) staff indicated to NMED that an alternative approach to investigation activities at MDA C was being considered. As recently as June 21, the Permittees conveyed to NMED their continuing consideration of alternatives to the approved work plan. Obviously, if the scope of work is not finalized, NMED cannot even consider an extension request.

Finally, be advised that internal Laboratory or DOE reviews are not considered as



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Messrs. Gregory and Nanc

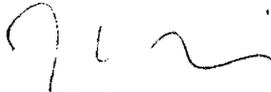
June 23, 2005

Page 2

justification for an extension. Rather, the Permittees should incorporate such reviews into their planning process well in advance of submittal deadlines in order to comply with the deadlines in the March 1, 2005 Consent Order (Order).

Should you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Chamberlain at (505) 428-2546.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi

Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:kc

cc: J. Young, NMED HWB
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
K. Chamberlain, NMED HWB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
K. Hargis, LANL RRES/DO, MS M591
N. Quintana, LANL E/ER, MS M992
D. McInroy, LANL E/ER, MS M992
file: Reading and LANL General '05