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NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 8, 2011

George J. Rael, Assistant Manager  
Environmental Projects Office  
Department of Energy/National  
Nuclear Security Administration  
Los Alamos Site Office  
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham, Associate Director  
Environmental Programs  
Los Alamos National Security, LLC  
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: SECOND NOTICE OF DISAPPROVAL  
INVESTIGATION REPORT  
LOWER SANDIA CANYON AGGREGATE AREA  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-11-019**

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, LLC (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) the *Investigation Report for Lower Sandia Canyon Aggregate Area, Revision 1* (Report) dated August 2011 and referenced by LA-UR-11-4795 and EP2011-0261 and response to the Notice of Disapproval (NOD). NMED hereby issues this second NOD with the following comments. The comment numbers correspond to the original NOD comments.

**3. Section 6.4.1.4, Site Contamination, Soil and Rock Sampling, page 32:**

The NOD response states that the results of geophysical survey did not identify any landfill boundaries or buried waste at Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 20-001(c). Because tuff was encountered at a very shallow depth (less than 1-2 ft bgs), it was

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decided the samples above the soil-tuff interface would not provide meaningful characterization data for the site. The sampling for SWMU 20-001(c) was not conducted in the proper locations during 1995 investigations. The results of geophysical survey conducted in 2010 did not identify the landfill boundaries. The Permittees propose to collect additional samples during a second phase of investigation to define the extent of contamination. Before collecting additional samples, the Permittees must conduct a historical document search to ensure that the samples collected during 2010 investigations are indeed from the location of former landfill.

**17. Section 9.1.1, Conclusions, Former TA-20, page 106:**

NMED does not concur with the response to this comment. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were detected at several locations at TA-20 and must be retained as chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) for risk evaluation purposes. Regardless of the source of the contamination, PCBs are present at the site and do contribute to the overall risk. If PCBs drive risk above target levels, the Permittees may wish to consider tying the remediation costs to the source area, but the fact that PCBs are present at TA-20 cannot be ignored and PCBs cannot be excluded from the site risk assessments.

**18. Section B-5.3, Subsurface Tuff Sampling Methods, page B-4:**

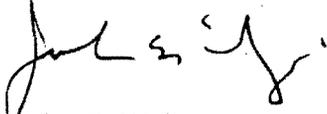
The response to this comment is not adequate. The Permittees have not demonstrated that appropriate methods have been used to collect samples for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) analysis. The Permittees must specifically describe the methods used to collect samples for VOCs. The Permittees must describe in detail the methods used to collect the samples from the sampling device, the procedures used to transfer the samples to sampling containers, the types of sample containers used, how the sample containers were filled to eliminate headspace, and the method of storage for the sample containers. Methods used to collect samples for different media such as soil, sediment, and tuff, must be described separately. The Permittees state that sample material had to be broken to fit into sample containers. It is not clear from the text that after samples were transferred into appropriate containers, how the samples were "broken" and whether there was any head space in the sample container after it was filled. The Permittees must describe every step of sample collection in detail so NMED can determine the validity of VOC data.

The Permittees must address all comments and submit a response by **September 19, 2011**. The Permittees must submit replacement pages with the response. The Permittees must include a table that details where all revisions have been made to the Report and that cross-references NMED's numbered comments. The replacement pages must be in the form of two paper copies and one electronic copy in accordance with Section XI.A of the Order. In addition, the Permittees must submit a redline-strikeout version of the replacement pages that includes all changes and edits to the Report (electronic copy) with the response to this second NOD.

Messrs. Rael and Graham  
September 8, 2011  
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Please contact Neelam Dhawan of my staff at (505) 476-6042 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling  
Acting Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993  
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB  
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File: LANL, Lower Sandia Canyon Aggregate Area IR, 2011.  
LANL 11-019