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GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

TASY

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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

September 11, 2006

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

David McInroy, Deputy Program Director
Environmental Remediation & Surveillance
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O.Box 1663, Mail Stop M992
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: DENIAL OF REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN FREQUENCY OF VAPOR
PHASE SAMPLING AT MDA H, SWMU 54-004, AT TA-54
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY EPA ID No: NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-03-007**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy and the Los Alamos National Security, LLC (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Submittal of "Periodic Monitoring Report for Vapor-Sampling Activities at Material Disposal Area H, Solid Waste Management Unit 54-004, at Technical Area 54 for the Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2006"* dated August 4, 2006 and referenced by EP2006-0690.

In the document, the Permittees recommend that the subsurface vapor monitoring frequency at MDA H be reduced from quarterly to annual sampling. To date, the Permittees have reported data for five quarters. The data demonstrates that tritium and volatile organic compounds are present in the subsurface and the detected concentrations vary by more than an order of magnitude between different sampling events at various depths. NMED does not consider this sufficient to support selection of a remedy based on long-term trends in subsurface vapor-phase contaminant concentrations.

NMED therefore requires that the Permittees continue collecting quarterly subsurface vapor samples in the three existing boreholes (i.e. 54-15461, 54-15462 and 54-1023) at MDA H until a



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Messrs. Gregory and McClure

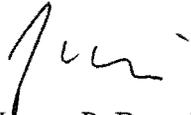
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final remedy is selected. At that time, NMED will reevaluate the monitoring frequency at MDA H.

Please contact Neelam Dhawan of my staff at (505) 428-2540 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi

Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:nmd

cc: N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
A. Phelps, ADEP, MS J591
D. Stavert, ENV, LANL, M992
G. Dover, EP-CA, MS M992
J. Hopkins, EP-CA, MS M992
N. Quintana, ENV ERS, LANL, MS M992

File: Reading and LANL/TA 54/54-004