

TA54



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 7, 2007

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

David McInroy
Remediation Services Deputy Project Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A992
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL WITH DIRECTION
DRILLING WORK PLAN FOR REGIONAL AND INTERMEDIATE WELLS AT
TECHNICAL AREA 54
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-GROUNDWATER-MISC**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Drilling Work Plan for Regional and Intermediate Wells at Technical Area 54* (hereafter, the Plan) dated November 2007 and referenced by LA-UR-07-7578. NMED has reviewed the Plan and hereby issues this Approval with the following direction.

The Permittees are currently conducting a Corrective Measures Evaluation (CME) at Material Disposal Area (MDA) G, and will submit the CME report for NMED review by September 12, 2008. The remedy selection for MDA H has been issued for public comment, and the CME report for MDA L will be submitted by the Permittees to NMED by January 18, 2008. Selection of remedies at these sites will, in part, depend on the availability of reliable groundwater



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monitoring data collected from an appropriately designed monitoring network surrounding Technical Area (TA) 54.

NMED believes that due to delays and mistakes in the well drilling and groundwater monitoring program at Los Alamos National Laboratory, there may not be sufficient time to obtain enough reliable groundwater monitoring data to support CME at MDA G, H and L and still meet the March 1, 2005 Compliance Order on Consent milestones. NMED therefore requires the Permittees to accelerate their well drilling schedule to mitigate at least some of the delays. The Permittees must install wells R-39 and R-41 no later than March 31 and May 31, 2008, respectively. NMED may ask the Permittees to install a replacement well by July 31, 2008, if Screen 3 of R-22 is not expected to provide reliable data. The intermediate well PCI-1 must be installed no later than July 31, 2008 given that intermediate groundwater will be intercepted in Pajarito Canyon south of MDA G. If NMED decides that an additional intermediate well (PCI-2) is necessary based on information obtained from drilling PCI-1, the Permittees must install it no later than September 30, 2008.

To provide groundwater monitoring data in a timely manner to confirm compliance and support the selected remedies at TA 54, the Permittees must therefore install R-37 no later than March 31, 2008, R-40 no later than May 31, 2008, and R-38 no later than July 31, 2008.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact John Young at (505) 476-6038 or Hai Shen at (505) 476-6039.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:hs

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
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file: Reading and LANL TA-54 (MDAs G, H, L, Groundwater)