

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

DIANE DENISH
Lieutenant Governor

TR 54
NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RON CURRY
Secretary

JON GOLDSTEIN
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 8, 2008

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 MODIFICATION
DRILLING WORK PLAN FOR NATURE AND EXTENT OF CHROMIUM
CONTAMINATION IN GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATIONS
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 Nature and Extent of Chromium Contamination in Groundwater Investigations* (hereafter, the Plan) dated April 2008 and referenced by LA-UR-08-2611. NMED has reviewed the Plan and hereby issues this approval with the following modification.

The Permittees proposed drilling of SCI-2 by advancing a core hole to investigate chromium inventory in the deep vadose zone, followed by completing a well through drilling an adjacent borehole to monitor water quality in either the intermediate or regional aquifer. In consideration of this approach, the SCI-2 drilling activities have been expanded in response to additional requirements specified in NMED's March 18, 2008 letter. NMED agrees with the Permittees' proposal to complete this well by August 31, 2008. To assess the potential of the deep vadose



30531

Messrs. Gregory and McInroy

Approval with modification - Drilling Plan for Cr Contamination Investigations

May 8, 2008

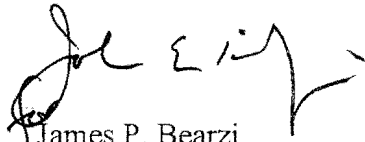
Page 2

zone as a secondary chromium source to the regional aquifer, however, the Permittees must conduct a quick turnaround analysis of the core samples to be collected at SCI-2, and include the chemical data in the revised chromium fate and transport modeling report that is due to NMED July 31, 2008.

According to the Plan, a further refinement of the locations based on data collected from SCI-2 may be needed for the two regional wells to be placed in east and southeast of R-28 (i.e., NMED-1 and NMED-2 as temporarily named in the Plan); data collected from the ongoing drilling of R-42, a regional well located upgradient of R-28, will also be useful with regard to installation of NMED-1 and NMED-2, both of which are designed with two screened intervals. NMED therefore approves the Permittees' proposal to set December 31, 2008 as the new completion date for both NMED-1 and NMED-2. However, because the installation of wells NMED-1 and NMED-2 will be delayed, NMED requires the well completion reports to be submitted no later than March 1, 2009.

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

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi

Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:hs

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
J. Young, NMED HWB
K. Roberts, NMED HWB
H. Shen, NMED HWB
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993
B. Olson, NMED GWQB
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
G. Rael, DOE LASO, MS A316
M. Johansen, DOE LASO, MS A316
S. Stiger, LANL ENV, MS J591
P. Huber, LANL ENV, MS M992
D. Katzman, LANL ENV, MS M992

file: Reading and LANL TA-54 (Sandia and Mortandad Canyons, Cr Contamination in Groundwater)