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BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

DIANE DENISH
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO  **ENTERED**
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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RON CURRY
Secretary

JON GOLDSTEIN
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 9, 2009

David Gregory
Project Director, Environmental Operations
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, MS M992
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR DEVIATION FROM WORK PLAN FOR
REGIONAL MONITORING WELL R-37
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-MISC-GW**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and Graham:

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 *Status of Regional Aquifer Well R-37 and Request for Deviation from Approved Work Plan* (hereafter, the Request) dated February 25, 2009 and referenced by EP2009-0110.

The Permittees state in the Request that two previous attempts to install the regional monitoring well R-37 were unsuccessful due to technical problems associated with drilling through fractured basalt. To optimize the successful installation of R-37, the Permittees discussed with NMED the option to use a foaming agent AQF-2 during drilling through the zone of fractured basalt. NMED hereby grants a request for deviation from the work plan for well R-37 to use AQF-2 in open-hole drilling to the base of the basalt. Drilling below the base of the basalt will be conducted using casing advance with potable water and air.

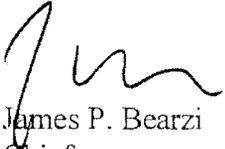
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Messrs. Gregory and Graham
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Should you have any questions, please contact Jerzy Kulis of my staff at (505) 476-6039.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:jk

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
M. Dale, 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
D. Katzman, EP-LWSP, MS M992
P. Huber, EP-LWSP, MS M992
H. Shen, DOE LASO, MS A316

file: Reading and LANL General (Groundwater General)