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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



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RON CURRY
Secretary

JON GOLDSTEIN
Deputy Secretary

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

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 20, 2009

David Gregory
Federal Project Director
Los Alamos Site Office
Department of Energy
3747 West Jemez Rd, MS 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: REVIEW OF THE PERIODIC MONITORING REPORT FOR VAPOR-SAMPLING ACTIVITIES AT MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA H, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT 54-004, AT TECHNICAL AREA 54, SECOND QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2009
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY EPA ID No: NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-09-031**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy and the Los Alamos National Security, LLC (collectively, the Permittees) *Periodic Monitoring Report for Vapor-Sampling Activities at Material Disposal Area H, Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2009* (PMR), dated July, 2009 and referenced by LA-UR-09-4406/EP2009-0319.

Volatile organic compounds and tritium continue to be present in the subsurface at material disposal area (MDA) H. Detected concentrations of toluene were higher in borehole 54-15462 during the second quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2009 as compared to three previous quarters. Several discrepancies were noted between Table 3.0-1 and Table 5.2-1. For example, the calculated concentration of acetone in pore gas that corresponds to groundwater standards is reported as 35,200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in Table 3.0-1 and as 32,200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in Table 5.2-1. Similar discrepancies were noted for dichlorodifluoromethane, ethylbenzene, trichloro-1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane [1,1,2-], and xylene [1,2-]. Table 5.0-2 includes tritium data for 4th Quarter FY08 and 1st Quarter FY09. The data should have been highlighted to indicate rejection by NMED



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(April 7, 2009) because the samples were not considered representative of formation air.

The Permittees must continue to collect quarterly subsurface vapor samples from the three existing boreholes at MDA H until the work plan for additional investigations (required by NMED's June 23, 2009 letter) is approved and implemented. Please contact Neelam Dhawan of my staff at (505) 476-6042 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
K. Roberts, NMED HWB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
G. Rael, DOE LASO, MS A316
M. Graham, ADEP MS M991

File: Reading and LANL/TA 54/54-004, 2009