



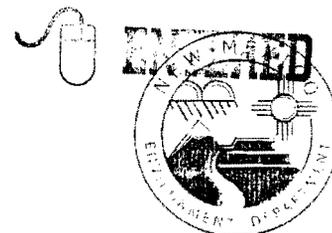
BILL RICHARDSON
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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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RON CURRY
Secretary

JON GOLDSTEIN
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 30, 2009

David Gregory
Federal Project Director
Los Alamos Site Office, Department of Energy
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Los Alamos, NM 87544

David McInroy
Remediation Services Deputy Project Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop M992
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATION
OF COMPLETION REPORT FOR REGIONAL AQUIFER WELL R-39
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-GW-MISC**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C. and U.S. Department of Energy (the Permittees) document entitled *Completion Report for Regional Aquifer Well R-39* (Report) dated April 2009 and referenced by EP2009-0139. NMED hereby approves the Report with the following direction.

- 1) **Section 2.2.1:** This section states that a foaming agent was not used during the drilling sequence between 707 feet (ft) to total at 896 ft below ground surface (bgs). Review of the open-hole borehole video log, taken on November 13, 2008, shows that an abundance of foam was present from 706 ft to the water table at 820 ft bgs. In the video, the foaming agent was recorded floating on the water table. The Report states on page 4 that only four gallons of foam was used at 707 ft bgs and that no additional foam was used past this depth. It is unlikely that this amount of foam would have persisted in the borehole after seven days of drilling and with the addition of 7500 gallons of potable water. The Permittees shall investigate this apparent discrepancy and submit a written response to NMED no later than **December 4, 2009**.
- 2) **Section 2.3:** Oxidation-reduction potential (ORP) of groundwater was not measured in the field during development and aquifer testing of R-39. For future well installation, the Permittees shall always collect ORP measurements during well development and aquifer testing.



Messrs. Gregory and McInroy
Approval with Modification of Completion Report for Well R-39
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3) **Table 5.1-1:** The specific conductance results in the table appear to be in the wrong units.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Michael Dale (505) 661-2673.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:md

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
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file: Reading and LANL Groundwater General, R-39 Completion Report