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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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RON CURRY
Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 19, 2010

George J. Rael
Environmental Operations Manager
Los Alamos Site Office
Department of Energy
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
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, FOURTH QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2009
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY EPA ID No: NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-10-004**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

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, Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2009* (PMR), dated December, 2009 and referenced by LA-UR-09-7879/EP2009-0630.

Review of the data for fiscal year (FY) 2009 indicates that volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are consistently present in the subsurface at Material Disposal Area (MDA) H. In general, data collected during the four quarters of FY 2009 indicate that detected concentrations of VOCs have not changed significantly. However, the detected concentrations of chlorobenzene, 2-propanol, and toluene increased with depth at borehole 54-15462 during the fourth quarter. Relatively higher concentrations of tritium that were detected during the third quarter, decreased in the fourth quarter to levels consistent with first and second quarters.



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The Permittees must continue to collect quarterly subsurface vapor samples from the four existing boreholes at MDA H. 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
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File: Reading and LANL/TA 54/54-004, 2010