



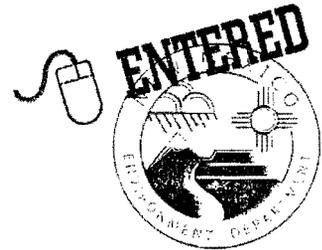
BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

DIANE DENISH
Lieutenant Governor

TASY
NEW MEXICO
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
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RON CURRY
Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 11, 2010

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

Michael J. Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, LLC
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

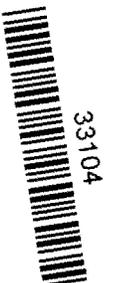
**RE: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATION
DRILLING WORK PLAN FOR REGIONAL AQUIFER WELL R-56
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-MISC-GW**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Drilling Work Plan for Regional Aquifer Well R-56* (Plan) dated February 1, 2010 and referenced by EP2010-0036.

NMED has reviewed the Plan and hereby issues this Approval with the following modification.

If perched intermediate water is encountered during drilling of well R-56, the Permittees must notify NMED by phone within one business day of each such occurrence and shall minimize the impact of bentonite and drilling fluids on the perched horizon. If NMED determines that the perched water horizon requires monitoring, the Permittees shall install an intermediate well in that horizon, either in the R-56 borehole or in a separate borehole at a nearby location approved by NMED. If the Permittees choose to install the intermediate well in the R-56 borehole, they shall include the intermediate well in the proposed design for R-56. If the Permittees choose to install the intermediate well in a



separate borehole. they shall submit to NMED a drilling work plan for the intermediate well no later than 30 days following completion of R-56.

Nothing in this letter shall be construed as an abrogation of NMED's rights to pursue enforcement actions against the Permittees for failure to comply with the requirements of the March 1, 2005 Order on Consent (Order), including the Permittees' failure to timely complete wells at or near TA-54.

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

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

BRZ;jk

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
K. Roberts, NMED HWB
J. Kulis, NMED HWB
M. Dale, NMED HWB
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894
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