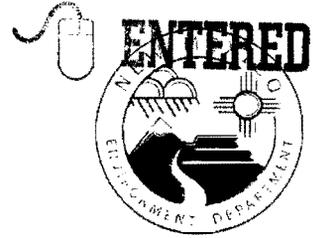




NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

RON CURRY
Secretary

SARAH COTTRELL
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 5, 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: 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, FIRST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2010
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY EPA ID No: NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-10-027**

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, Solid Waste Management Unit 54-004, at Technical Area 54, First Quarter Fiscal Year 2010* (PMR), dated April, 2010 and referenced by LA-UR-10-2178/EP2010-0140.

At NMED's direction, in November 2009, the Permittees drilled a new borehole (i.e., 54-609985) to a depth of 300 ft bgs, redrilled borehole 54-01023 to a depth of 260 ft bgs, and extended borehole 54-15462 to a depth of 300 ft bgs. The old sampling systems were replaced in all four boreholes at MDA H with a stainless steel sampling system. The data indicates that volatile organic compounds (VOCs) continue to be present in the subsurface at Material Disposal Area (MDA) H at relatively low levels. The detected concentrations of tritium during first



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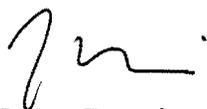
Messrs. Rael and Graham
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quarter of fiscal year 2010 were an order of a magnitude lower than concentrations detected during last three quarters in borehole 54-01023.

The Permittees propose to change the VOCs monitoring frequency from quarterly sampling to annual sampling. NMED does not concur with this proposal. The Permittees have recently installed a new stainless sampling system in all four boreholes and must continue to collect quarterly subsurface vapor samples from all boreholes for at least eight quarters and analyze the samples for tritium as well as VOCs. NMED will then review the data and decide if any changes to monitoring schedule are warranted.

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
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K. Roberts, NMED HWB
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File: Reading and LANL/TA 54/54-004, 2010