



BILL RICHARDSON
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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

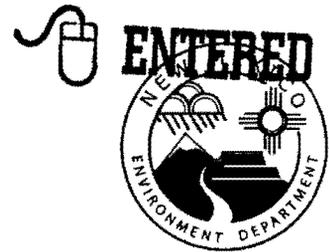
Hazardous Waste Bureau

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RON CURRY
Secretary

SARAH COTTRELL
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 8, 2010

George J. Rael
Assistant Manager
Department of Energy/National Nuclear
Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
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 REPORTS
MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA H; SWMU 54-004
THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2010
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY EPA ID No: NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-10-079 & HWB-LANL-10-086**

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, Third Quarter Fiscal Year 2010*, dated October 2010 and referenced by LA-UR-10-6713/EP2010-0455 and *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 2010*, dated November 2010 and referenced by LA-UR-10-7589/EP2010-0517.

NMED directed the Permittees on June 16, 2010 to discontinue the use of Brüel and Kaejer (B&K) analyzer to field screen for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the subsurface at Material Disposal Areas (MDA) H. There is no demonstrated correlation between the field-



screening results obtained by B&K analyzer and the laboratory results. The data reported in these latest periodic monitoring reports confirms earlier observations made by NMED that no significant correlation exists between two data sets.

NMED notes that field screening for the third quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2010 was conducted prior to receiving NMED's directions; however, the Permittees continued to use B&K analyzer during the sampling conducted in the fourth quarter of FY 2010. Furthermore, the Permittees continue to include field screening data collected using B&K analyzer in the periodic monitoring reports. The Permittees must not include it in future submittals.

The Permittees must continue to collect quarterly subsurface vapor samples from four existing boreholes until otherwise directed by NMED. 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
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894
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S. Schulman, DOE LASO, MS A316
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File: Reading and LANL/TA 54/MDA H, 2010