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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



ENTER



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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 19, 2011

George J. Rael, Assistant Manager
Environmental Projects Office
Los Alamos Site Office, DOE
3747 West Jemez Rd, 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: RESPONSE
REQUEST TO WITHDRAW THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DRILLING WORK
PLANS FOR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREAS G AND H
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 the Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Request to Withdraw the Requirement for the Drilling Work Plans for Material Disposal Areas G and H* (Request) dated August 8, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0251.

In Notices of Disapproval for Material Disposal Areas (MDAs) G and H dated, respectively, April 1 and 15, 2011, NMED required the Permittees to submit work plans for two regional groundwater monitoring wells near the MDAs. The due date for the work plans has been recently extended, due to force majeure, to September 16, 2011. The Permittees state in the Request that the NMED's requirement for additional monitoring wells near MDAs G and H may be premature because new hydrologic and geochemical data, collected since April 2011, might show that one or both of the wells are not necessary. The new data will be included in the updated groundwater assessment that will be submitted as part of the revised corrective measures evaluation (CME)

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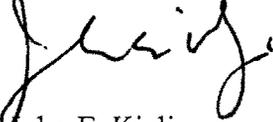


reports for MDAs G and H. The Permittees request that NMED withdraw the requirements to submit work plans for new monitoring wells near MDAs G and H and postpone its determination regarding the need for these wells until the updated groundwater assessment is reviewed. In addition, the Permittees state that the choice of remedy for MDAs G and H could affect the decision on new groundwater monitoring wells.

NMED hereby suspends the requirement, originally included in the NMED's April 1 and 15, 2011 letters, that the Permittees submit work plans for new groundwater monitoring wells near MDAs G and H. NMED will reevaluate the need for installation of these and, possibly, other groundwater monitoring wells after completing the review of the updated groundwater assessment that will be included with revised CME reports for MDAs G and H.

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

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
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