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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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RYAN FLYNN
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BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 27, 2015

Mr. Gene Turner, DOE/AIP/POC
U.S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316
3747 West Jemez Road
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Ms. Alison Dorries, ENV Division Director
Los Alamos National Security, LLC
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS K404
Los Alamos, NM 87544

SUBJECT: Spill Response Assessment and Closure of Release ID# 2015-403 occurring at Regional Well 56, reported to NMED on April 21, 2015

Dear Mr. Turner and Ms. Dorries:

On April 21, 2015, representatives of Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) verbally reported an unauthorized discharge to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) as required under 20.6.2.1203 NMAC of the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations. The report identified a loss of packer pressure caused by a defect on a hose on a recently installed manifold at Regional Well 56 between screened interval #1 and screened interval #2 (Release ID# 2015-403). The incident resulted in a suspected cross-flow of 58,000 gallons of ground water from screened interval #1 to screened interval #2 at Regional Well 56. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) reportedly replaced the defective hose and re-inflated the packer as soon as practicable. The depth to regional water at Regional Well 56 is approximately 920 feet.

Corrective actions to address these releases are reportedly being coordinated with the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB) in accordance with the Compliance Order on Consent (Consent Order), between NMED and the United States Department of Energy and the Regents of the University of California for Los Alamos National Laboratory, under the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act § 74-4-10 and the New Mexico Solid Waste Act § 74-9-36(D). Based on the information in the Release/Discharge Notification submitted by LANS to GWQB on November 20, 2013, in accordance with 20.6.2.1203 NMAC, and

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because corrective actions are being coordinated with the HWB under the Consent Order, no further action is required at this time for release ID# 2015-403.

NMED reserves the right to require additional corrective actions should this incident result in the degradation of ground water quality. Further, nothing in this letter shall be construed as relieving the United States Department of Energy or LANS of the obligation to comply with all other applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, permits or orders.

If you have any questions, please contact either Gerald Knutson at (505) 827-2996 or me at (505) 827-2936.

Sincerely,

Steven Huddleson, P.G., C.P.G.
Program Manager
Pollution Prevention Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau

SH:GK

cc: Steven Huddleson, NMED GWQB (electronic copy)
Greg Huey, NMED GWQB (electronic copy)
Gerald Knutson, NMED GWQB (electronic copy)
James Hogan, NMED SWQB (electronic copy)
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Jacob Meadows, LANA/ENV-RCA/WA (electronic copy via email to jmeadows@lanl.gov)
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