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CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 22, 2016

Ms. Jody M. Pugh, DOE/NA-LA
U.S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316
3747 West Jemez Road
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Mr. John P. McCann, EPC-CP Division Leader
Los Alamos National Security, LLC
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS K491
Los Alamos, NM 87544

SUBJECT: Spill Response Assessment of Release ID# 2016-425 occurring at Technical Area 60, Sigma Mesa Laydown Yard on March 24, 2016

Dear Ms. Pugh and Mr. McCann:

On March 25, 2016, 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 discharge from a failed drain plug on a 5,000 gallon poly hold tank (holding tank) located at Technical Area (TA) 60, Sigma Mesa Laydown Yard (Release ID# 2016-425). The incident was caused by a vehicle transporting purge and development water from well sampling locations across the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to the holding tank. During the transfer of well water to the holding tank, the driver's side rear wheel contacted the holding tank's drain plug causing it to fail. This resulted in the release of approximately 3,300 gallons of the purge and development water from the well(s) onto the laydown yard. The majority of the release was contained within the fenced area of the laydown yard with a small volume flowing approximately ten yards outside of the fenced area. LANL personnel reportedly controlled the release by inserting a temporary drain plug into the holding tank and deploying gravel bags to retain the water within the laydown yard. Most of the water from the release soaked into the base course within the Sigma Mesa Laydown Yard. The remaining water, approximately 1,200 gallons, was transferred to another holding tank. Samples of the water were taken on June 1, 2016. During the sampling event, LANL personnel noted water seeping from the drain plug of the holding tank containing the purge and development water. The water was transferred to a new holding tank on June 7, 2016.



Based on information submitted by LANS, corrective actions taken for this unauthorized discharge are acceptable to the GWQB; however, further corrective actions are required. The corrective actions did not include an action to prevent a similar release from reoccurring. Please submit modified Corrective Actions to the GWQB within 60 days of the date of this letter, by September 20, 2016.

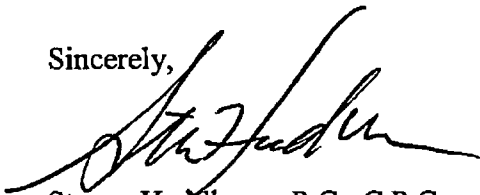
The modified report should include the following:

1. Water quality sampling results from the June 1, 2016 sampling of the discharge waters.
2. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the transport and transfer of purge water and development water from well sampling locations to the holding tanks located at the TA-60 Sigma Mesa Laydown Yard.

NMED reserves the right to require additional corrective actions not already being required should this incident result in the degradation of groundwater 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 to jmeadows@lanl.gov)
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