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**State of New Mexico**  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

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RON CURRY  
SECRETARY

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

July 24, 2006

Mat Johansen  
Groundwater Project Manager  
NNSA -- Los Alamos Site Office  
Mail Stop A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

David McInroy  
Remediation Services Deputy Project Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A100  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL FOR THE DRILLING WORK PLAN FOR REGIONAL AQUIFER  
WELLS R-35A AND R-35B  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID #NM0890010515**

Dear Messrs. Johansen and McInroy:

On July 3, 2006, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the *Drilling Work Plan for Regional Aquifer Wells R-35a and R-35b* (Work Plan), referenced by LA-UR-06-3964 and ER2006-0533. NMED hereby approves the Work Plan. Due to continuing concerns regarding the quality of groundwater samples collected from wells, NMED reiterates the necessity for the Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (the Permittees), to minimize the use of drilling fluids and develop the wells in a timely and vigorous manner. Reducing impacts to aquifer materials and sample quality is of utmost importance to the Permittees, NMED and other stakeholders. Although the Work Plan outlines a graded approach for the use of drilling fluids as borehole stability problems may arise, NMED prefers that drilling and development fluids not be used in the targeted aquifer intervals, if at all possible.

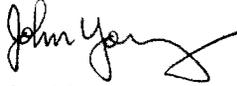


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Messrs. Johansen and McIn  
Approval for Drilling Work Plan for Regional Aquifer Wells R-35a and R-35b  
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Should you have any questions or comments, please contact John Young of my staff at (505) 428-2538.

Sincerely,



John Young  
LANL Corrective Action Project Leader  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: J. Bearzi, NMED HWB  
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
H. Shen, NMED HWB  
R. Ford-Schmid, NMED DOE OB  
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993  
B. Olson, NMED GWQB  
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J. Dewart, EP-WSP, M992  
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file: Reading and LANL General TA-72 (TA-3, Sandia Canyon, Groundwater)