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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



JAN 12 2007



Mr. James Bearzi, Chief
New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

SUBJECT: Notification of Force Majeure for the "Investigation Report for Work Plan For Corrective Action Of SWMU 73-002 And Investigation Of Consolidated Unit 73-002-99"

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

In accordance with Section III.H of the Consent Order, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is notifying the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) that a force majeure event beyond the reasonable control of NNSA has occurred which will delay the submittal of the "Investigation Report for Solid Waste Management Unit 73-002 and Investigation of Consolidated Unit 73-002-99." This letter serves as follow-up to our 72-hour verbal notification, David Gregory to the Hazardous Waste Bureau, (Kathryn Chamberlain) on January 3, 2007.

Winter storms that continue to move through the Los Alamos area have generated a considerable amount of snow. Currently, accumulations at the site are estimated at 32 inches. This project is in stand-down mode until conditions on the side slope have improved to allow work to resume safely. As discussed in the verbal notification referenced above, work conditions continue to be extremely treacherous. The projected schedule for completing the remaining field work at this site is 15 days from the date that work is allowed to resume.

The following actions have been or will be implemented to prevent and/or minimize delays:

1. Snow levels will be evaluated every two days to provide maximum lead time for sub-contractors to re-mobilize to the site.
2. Field crews will begin fracturing and loosening contaminated media in advance of vacuum trucks.
3. Soil and rock samples collected once work resumes will be analyzed on an accelerated turn-around schedule to help recoup lost time caused by the snow delay.
4. All workers will be equipped with necessary cold weather gear.



DOE is anxious to complete this work and will make every effort to minimize down time but at present we are unable to accurately estimate the days lost to this force majeure event. Actual days lost will be provided to your office within the same week that work resumes. If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 665-5808.

Sincerely,



David R. Gregory
Federal Project Director
Environmental Operations

EO: 2DG-007

cc:

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