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Governor

DIANE DENISH
Lieutenant Governor

TA00
NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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RON CURRY
Secretary

SARAH COTTRELL
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 30, 2010

George J. Rael
Environmental Operations Manager
Los Alamos Site Office, Department of Energy
3747 West Jemez Road, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, LLC
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL
REQUEST FOR R-3 PURGE VOLUME VARIANCE
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 for R-3 Purge Volume Variance* (Request) dated September 17, 2010 and referenced by EP2010-0423.

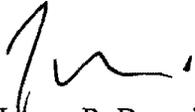
The Permittees request a variance from Section X.C.5 of the March 1, 2005 Compliance Order on Consent requirement that calls for removal, during well development, of volume of water equivalent to that introduced during well construction. The Permittees state in the Request that 130,000 gallons of potable water were introduced into the regional aquifer during R-3 construction and, to date, 60,000 gallons were recovered from that well. Data presented by the Permittees indicate that the last 20,000 gallons recovered from well R-3 have geochemical characteristics similar to those of the regional aquifer and are likely local groundwater.



NMED finds that the Permittees have shown good cause for the variance request and hereby grants the request. The Permittees must conduct enhanced purging and sampling of R-3 after installation of a dedicated pump, in accordance with the sampling plan proposed in the Request.

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

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

BRZ:jk

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
J. Kulis, NMED HWB
M. Dale, NMED HWB
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894
B. Olson, NMED GWQB
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
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