

MWL 07
07-028

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



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CERTIFIED MAIL -- RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 2, 2007

Ms. Patty Wagner
Manager
Sandia Site Office/NNSA
U.S. Department of Energy
P. O. Box 5400, MS 0184
Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400

Francis B. Nimick
Deputy Director
Nuclear Energy & Global Securities Technologies
Sandia National Laboratories
P.O. Box 5800, MS 0701
Albuquerque, NM 87185

**RE: REPLACEMENT OF MIXED WASTE LANDFILL GROUNDWATER
MONITORING WELLS MWL-MW1 AND MWL-MW3
SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES, EPA ID NM5890110518**

Dear Ms. Wagner and Mr. Nimick:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has determined that groundwater monitoring wells MWL-MW1 and MWL-MW3 at the Sandia National Laboratories' (SNL) Mixed Waste Landfill (MWL) require replacement. Data provided to NMED indicates that the water level will soon drop to levels that MWL-MW3 cannot be properly sampled. Additionally, both wells are also constructed with stainless steel screens which are suffering corrosion to such a degree that the wells can longer produce water samples that are representative of aquifer conditions for chromium, iron, and nickel.

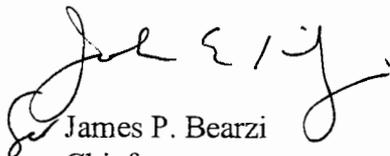
In accordance with Section VIII.A of the Order on Consent (April 24, 2004), if a well is any way unusable for its intended purpose, it must be replaced. The U. S. Department of Energy and Sandia Corporation (the Permittees) shall therefore replace wells MWL-MW1 and MWL-MW3. The Permittees shall submit to the NMED within 60 days of receipt of this letter a plan for approval describing how the wells are to be replaced and a schedule for implementation of this work. The plan shall also describe how the existing wells shall be plugged and abandoned.

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Because of problems associated with stainless-steel screened wells at the MWL (chromium and nickel detections), the replacement wells shall be screened with polyvinyl (PVC) plastic casing. The mud rotary drilling method shall not be used to install the wells. Each well shall be installed to monitor groundwater at the water table. Additionally, each well shall be installed at locations as close as possible to the western boundary of the landfill, taking into account the footprint of the future landfill cover. This change in well locations, particularly for MWL-MW1, is based on better preparing the MWL for long-term monitoring of the groundwater which flows west-southwest.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact William Moats of my staff at (505) 222-9551

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: J. Kieling, NMED, HWB
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