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NEW MEXICO  
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RON CURRY  
Secretary

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Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

December 22, 2009

Kimberly A. Davis  
Acting Manager  
U. S. Department of Energy  
NNSA/Sandia Site Office  
P.O. Box 5400, MS 0184  
Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400

Dr. Marianne C. Walck  
Director  
Nuclear Energy & Global Security Technologies  
Sandia National Laboratories  
P.O. Box 5800, MS 0701  
Albuquerque, NM 87185-0701

**RE: NOTICE OF DISAPPROVAL: CORRECTIVE MEASURES EVALUATION  
REPORT FOR TECHNICAL AREA-V GROUNDWATER, JULY, 2005 --  
NOVEMBER 2009 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY  
SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES, EPA ID# NM5890110518  
HWB-SNL-05-027**

Dear Ms. Davis and Dr. Walck:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has reviewed the *DOE/Sandia Responses to NMED's Notice of Disapproval: DOE/Sandia Responses to NMED's Notice of Disapproval for Corrective Measures Evaluation Report for Technical Area-V Groundwater, July, 2005 Sandia National Laboratories*, dated November 2009, submitted with cover letter dated November 16, 2009, by the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) on behalf of DOE and Sandia Corporation (collectively, the Permittees). The responses address NMED comments and include Appendix A (*Technical Area V Groundwater Investigation Work Plan*). Based on NMED's review, the following issues need clarification.

1. In Appendix A, Section 3.2, *Borehole Drilling*, last paragraph, in discussing TAV-MW13 the Permittees must provide guidance for the field geologist to use for setting the well screen if Ancestral Rio Grande (ARG) sediments are not encountered (installing the well to be a future replacement well of TAV-MW5).

2. In Appendix A, Section 11, *Aquifer Parameters*, 2nd paragraph, page A-13, last sentence, there is reference to “three wells”. NMED assumes that the sentence applies to all four wells mentioned in the paragraph. Indicate if the sentence should be corrected to read “four wells.”
3. NMED assumes that the slug tests, Appendix A, section 11, *Aquifer Parameters*, page A-13, will be conducted as part of the field effort and will be reported in the field report. Indicate if this is correct and add aquifer testing to the second paragraph of Appendix A, Section 9, *Reporting*.
4. NMED assumes that the geophysical logging discussed in Appendix A, Section 12, page A-13, will be conducted as part of the field effort and will be reported in the field report and included in Section 9. Indicate if this is correct and add geophysical logs to the second paragraph of Appendix A, Section 9, *Reporting*, and to the bulleted list of items to be sent to the Records Center.
5. Add the geophysical logs discussed in Appendix A, Section 3.1, *Borehole Drilling*, first paragraph, page A-4, to Section 9, *Reporting*, and to the bulleted list of items to be sent to the Records Center.
6. Indicate whether the logging tool(s) discussed in Appendix A, Section 12, *Geophysical Logging*, page A-13, will be decontaminated before entering each well.
7. NMED understands that, after developing the new wells as part of the field effort, slug tests and geophysical logging will be conducted on all the new and existing wells. The Permittees plan to conduct the field work in 40 days and submit the Field Report in 35 days, as shown in Appendix A, Figure 2. Confirm if the Permittees can meet this schedule or modify the schedule by proposing alternate times to complete these tasks.

In the responses to Specific Comments 1-3, the Permittees expressed concerns about the well placements selected by NMED, as compared to the ones chosen by the Permittees. Provided new wells are installed at the locations selected by the NMED, the Department has no objections if the Permittees want to voluntarily install additional wells at other locations to address the Permittees' concerns.

The Permittees must respond to this letter within 60 days of receipt to clarify the issues noted above. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Sid Brandwein of my staff at (505) 222-9504.

Ms. Davis and Dr. Walck  
December 22, 2009  
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Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

BRZ:ssb

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB  
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