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Date: July 6, 2007
Refer To: EP2007-0428

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

Subject: Request for Extension to Submit Investigation Report for Consolidated Units 16-007(a)-99 and 16-008(a)-99 Technical Area-16 Ponds

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

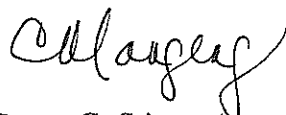
Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the Department of Energy would like to request an extension for the ongoing investigations at the Technical Area 16 Ponds, Consolidated Units 16-007(a)-99 and 16-008(a)-99, and the investigation report. Part of this investigation, described in the "Investigation Work Plan for Consolidated Units 16-007(a)-99 and 16-008(a)-99" (LA-UR-05-1694) and approved by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in a letter dated August 19, 2005, includes drilling four boreholes within the 90s Line Pond area of Consolidated Unit 16-008(a)-99. However, this pond area continues to be wet and as of July 3, 2007, has less than 1 in. of standing water. Persistent standing water in the 90s Line pond is very unusual, because in the past 10 years the pond dried out during May and June. The rainfall during May of this year was greater than has been observed during this month at LANL in many years and this, coupled with the high winter snowfall, has led to the unusual persistence of the 90s Line pond during 2007.

In a letter dated November 28, 2006 (EP2006-1005), LANL had requested an extension of the due date of the investigation report for Consolidated Units 16-007(a)-99 and 16-008(a)-99 to September 30, 2007, because water was present in the 90s Line pond during Fall 2006. This request was approved in an NMED letter dated December 5, 2006. This request for an extension was predicated on the 90s Line pond being dry enough for drilling by June 1, 2007. Since water is still present in the pond, LANL is requesting a 45-day extension to submit the investigation report on November 15, 2007. Currently, the pond is drying up (its diameter shrank from 110 ft on June 1, 2007, to 80 ft on June 15, 2007, to 20 ft on July 3, 2007). Thus, at the current rate of evaporation, LANL anticipates that the drilling can be completed before the onset of the summer

monsoons. If the pond is not completely dry when work is scheduled to begin, LANL proposes using clean fill material to help access the impacted drilling locations; LANL does not anticipate having to pursue this option. LANL staff discussed this issue and its resolution with NMED staff on June 5, 2007, June 21, 2007, and July 3, 2007.

If you have any questions, please contact John McCann at 665-1091 (jmcann@lanl.gov) or Lance Woodworth at 665-5820 (lwoodworth@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,



Susan G. Stiger, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



George J. Rael, Assistant Manager
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Site Office

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