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National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316
Environmental Restoration Program
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Date: November 29, 2007
Refer To: EP2007-0753

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

Subject: Submittal of Notification of Force Majeure for the Status Report for Solid Waste Unit 21-014, Material Disposal Area A, at Technical Area 21

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

In accordance with Section III.H of the Consent Order, Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) is notifying the New Mexico Environment Department of a force majeure and thus are requesting an extension for submitting the "Status Report for Material Disposal Area A, at Technical Area 21." This letter is a follow-up to our 72-hour oral notification to you on November 29, 2007.

One cause of the delay is the exceptionally dry subsurface conditions that slowed the collection of subsurface pore-gas samples. The time scheduled for collecting subsurface samples was based on the experience of the sampling subcontractor subject matter expert. Lower moisture conditions resulted in longer periods of time to collect the required amount of pore moisture as compared to similar sampling events during the same months of previous years.

A second cause of the delay was multiple power outages at the analytical laboratory processing the tritium samples. Because of the length of time required for radiological counting of these samples (e.g., several hours per sample), the power disruptions caused a loss of data and therefore the need to recount the samples.

Upon discovery of these conditions, the Laboratory implemented actions to minimize delays to the project including extending the work schedule to 7 days per week until sampling was completed. Despite these actions, we expect a net impact to the project schedule of three working days, which would delay the submittal of the status report until December 5, 2007. This schedule impact is based on cumulative and separate delays described above.

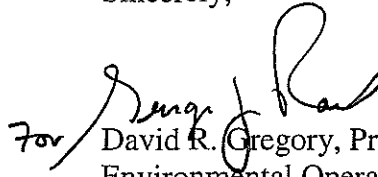
If you have any questions, please call Bruce Wedgeworth at (505) 231-0108 (brucew@lanl.gov) or Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lwoodworth@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,



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

Sincerely,



For David R. Gregory, Project Director
Environmental Operations
Los Alamos Site Office

SS/DG/AC/BW:sm

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