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*Date:* March 21, 2008  
*Refer To:* EP2008-0147

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: Delay in Submittal of Well R-33 Rehabilitation and Conversion Summary Report**

**References: (1) Letter, Bearzi to Gregory and McInroy, dated December 7, 2007  
(2) Letter, Stiger and Gregory to Bearzi, dated January 29, 2008**

Dear Mr. Bearzi:


The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)-approved schedule for completion of well rehabilitation and conversion activities at well R-33 calls for completing field activities by January 31, 2008, and submittal of a summary report by February 29 (reference 1). In January, we notified you of difficulties encountered during the fieldwork at R-33 and requested an extension of the submittal date of the summary report on rehabilitation of R-33 (reference 2).

This letter provides an update of activities at R-33 and an explanation of further unanticipated delays. The "fishing" expedition was successful in extricating all the Barcad tubing and wiring in February. A temporary packer was installed, and operations were moved from R-33 to R-14 to meet the narrow window in which the Westbay technician was available to remove the Westbay sampling system at R-14.

On March 1, restrictions were placed on access to both R-14 and R-33, which are located in the nesting habitat of the Mexican spotted owl. During February, rehabilitation and sampling were completed at R-14, such that R-14 activities were not impacted by the restriction; however, rehabilitation actions were yet to be performed at R-33. The summary report of R-14 rehabilitation will be submitted on schedule on March 31, but access to R-33 may not be available until May 15, pending results of biological assessments. Until we receive the results of the biological assessments, we cannot predict when access will be granted and therefore cannot reliably recommend a new date for completion of rehabilitation activities or reporting thereof at R-33. We will keep NMED informed as information becomes available. If all goes well, the rehabilitation activities are estimated to be completed within 2 weeks after access is granted. We will be able to produce a summary report of the activities no later than 6 weeks after rehabilitation activities are completed.

If you have any questions, please contact Ardyth Simmons at (505) 665-3935 (asimmons@lanl.gov) or Mat Johansen at (505) 665-5046 (mjohansen@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,



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

Sincerely,



David R. Gregory, Project Director  
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