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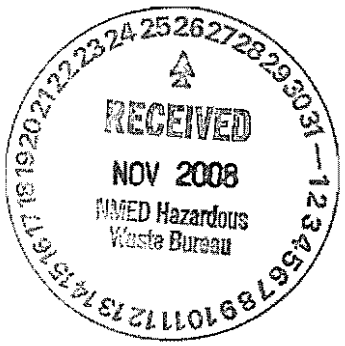
Date: November 26, 2008
Refer To: EP2008-0593

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: Review of October 2008 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Water Stewardship Project (LWSP) met on November 12, 2008, to review new groundwater data received in October 2008. At that time, several groundwater samples were identified with contaminant concentrations above the New Mexico or federal water quality standards.

The LWSP program manager notified the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous Waste Bureau about these findings by telephone on November 12, 2008, and followed up with an email on the same day.

The eight instances of a contaminant above a standard for the first time (based on samples collected since June 14, 2007) are tabulated in the attached report. Samples collected at these locations before June 14, 2007, also contained the same contaminants at concentrations above a standard, with the following exceptions:

- Four compounds (five analytical results) were detected in samples collected at Fishladder Canyon alluvial well FLC-25280:
    - RDX was detected at 7.47 µg/L in an unfiltered sample; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tap water screening level is 6.1 µg/L.
    - Aluminum was detected at 14,000 µg/L in a filtered sample; the New Mexico groundwater standard is 5000 µg/L.
    - Iron was detected at 7900 µg/L in a filtered sample; the New Mexico groundwater standard is 1000 µg/L.
    - Trichloroethene was found at 11.8 µg/L and 9.97 µg/L in two field duplicate unfiltered samples; the EPA maximum contaminant level is 5 µg/L.

- Aluminum was detected at 8,830 µg/L in a filtered sample collected at Fishladder Canyon alluvial well FLC-25278; the New Mexico groundwater standard is 5000 µg/L.

This letter is our written submission that indicates in the accompanying report and tables the chemical constituents that meet the seven screening criteria laid out in the Compliance Order on Consent, modified on May 13, 2008. The report identifies data collected since June 14, 2007, that meet these criteria.

If you have questions, please contact Ardyth Simmons at (505) 665-3935 (asimmons@lanl.gov) or David Gregory at (505) 667-5808 (dgregory@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

Michael J. Graham, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,

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

MG/DG/PH/AS/DR:sm

Enclosure: Report and accompanying tables: "Summary of New Los Alamos National Laboratory Groundwater Data Loaded in October 2008" (LA-UR-08-7147)

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