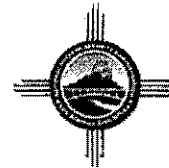




Environmental Programs
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National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316
Environmental Restoration Program
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
(505) 667-4255/FAX (505) 606-2132



Date: November 26, 2008
Refer To: EP2008-0607

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: Request for Extension for Sandia Canyon Investigation Report

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) is requesting an extension of the current due date of December 15, 2008, for the Sandia Canyon Investigation Report (SCIR). The SCIR will include the results of the chromium investigation currently underway, in addition to the content included in typical canyons investigation reports (e.g., sediment, biota, risk assessments). The basis of the request for extension is that the completion date for R-44 and R-45 is December 31, 2008, as required in the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) approval with modification letter dated May 8, 2008. In addition to the information derived from recently completed wells R-42, SCI-2, and R-43, these two dual-screen wells will be key in determining the downgradient extent of chromium contamination in the regional groundwater to the east and southeast of R-28. Without inclusion of at least one round of postdevelopment data from these two new wells, the SCIR will be substantially short of necessary information either to support further investigation of chromium contamination in the regional aquifer or to conduct the necessary corrective measures evaluation (CME). Additionally, an extension will also provide an opportunity to collect enough new data from the group of related wells (R-42, R-43, R-11, R-28, R-35a, R-35b, R-36, R-44, R-45 and SCI-1, SCI-2, R-12, Screens 1 and 2) to confirm or update the conceptual model and the fate and transport model submitted to NMED on July 31, 2008.

The Laboratory requests a submittal date of September 30, 2009, for the SCIR for the following reasons.

- Wells R-44 and R-45 will be completed per NMED's May 8, 2008, letter on schedule by December 31, 2008. The well completion reports will be delivered to NMED by March 1, 2009.
- Development and aquifer testing will be conducted in January 2009.
- The first round of samples from each screen will be collected in late January 2009 or early February 2009. Note that because the two-screen wells will require a Baski sampling

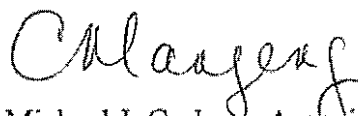
system, the first samples will be collected from each isolated screen at the end of the aquifer tests.

- Turnaround for fully validated data can be achieved by early April 2009.
- The second round of samples will be collected in early May 2009.
- Data from the second round will be available in early July 2009.
- New data can be incorporated into the numerical model, the nature and extent of contamination evaluated, the conceptual updated, and the SCIR prepared for submission to NMED by the September 30, 2009.

The Laboratory understands NMED's and the public's interest in the status and progress of the chromium project and the data from new wells. To address that interest, the Laboratory will continue to report new data to NMED promptly and will provide email updates via the listserv distribution used previously.

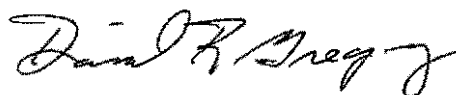
The Laboratory appreciates your consideration of this request for extension. If you have any questions, please contact Danny Katzman at (505) 667-6333 (katzman@lanl.gov) or Nancy Werdel at (505) 665-3619 (nwerdel@doeal.gov).

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/DK:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-OB, White Rock, NM
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM
Alison Bennett, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Nancy Werdel, DOE-LASO, MS A316
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RPF, MS M707
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