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Date: December 12, 2008
Refer To: EP2008-0643

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 an Extension for the Revision to the Pajarito Canyon Investigation Report

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) requests an extension of the December 22, 2008, date for submitting a revision of the Pajarito Canyon Investigation Report (PCIR) and associated redline strikeout copy. The extension is based on the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) requirement to include a large amount of additional information and content in a revision to the PCIR as described in the NMED's notice of deficiency (NOD) dated November 21, 2008. The amount and type of information required is substantially greater than the scope defined in the work plan that was approved by NMED on October 11, 2005, and is also greater than that required in previous NMED reviews of canyon investigation reports. The Laboratory also requests a meeting with NMED in January 2009 to discuss a number of the comments, including the work plans required in Specific Comments 20, 21, and 23. Following our meeting, the Laboratory will submit its response to the NOD on February 27, 2009.

The proposed extension date for submitting the revised PCIR is May 29, 2009. This date is based on the Laboratory's desire to include new stratigraphic information from regional groundwater monitoring wells currently being drilled around Technical Area 54 (TA-54) into the cross-sections required in Specific Comment 4 of the NOD. The last of a group of five new wells around TA-54 (R-41) is scheduled to be installed by March 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact Danny Katzman at (505) 667-6333 (katzman@lanl.gov) or Suzy Schulman at (505) 606-1962 (ssschulman@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

James Bearzi
EP2008-0643

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December 12, 2008

MG/DG/PH/DK:sm

Attachment: a/s

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)
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RPF, MS M707
IRM-RMMSO, MS A150 (date-stamped letter emailed)