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**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316  
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*Date:* February 27, 2009  
*Refer To:* EP2009-0106

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 the Drilling Work Plan for Intermediate Aquifer Well PCI-2**

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Enclosed please find two hard copies with electronic files of the Drilling Work Plan for Intermediate Aquifer Well PCI-2. This work plan is a revision to the plan submitted on November 13, 2007, and subsequently approved by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on December 7, 2007. The revision to the work plan reflects recent discussions with your staff to move PCI-2 from its originally planned location in lower Pajarito Canyon to the location where perched-intermediate monitoring well R-17i was planned. In the original work plan, drilling PCI-2 was considered contingent on the observations of perched-intermediate groundwater from wells in the vicinity, especially PCI-1. The proposed change in location is based on the original objective of PCI-2 (to characterize perched-intermediate groundwater with respect to potential sources upgradient in Pajarito Canyon) having been accomplished in part with the installation of a perched-intermediate screen at 650–670 ft below ground surface in well R-40. Additionally, a review of existing video and geophysical logs and driller's observations from drilling at R-39, R-32, and R-20 (east of R-40) suggest a low probability of encountering perched-intermediate groundwater at the original planned location.

The new location of PCI-2 will accomplish the objectives of R-17i, which is a requirement of NMED's Notice of Disapproval on the Pajarito Canyon Investigation Report, dated November 21, 2008. As described in the attached drilling work plan, drilling activities will include a separate core hole to characterize potential tritium contamination in pore water of the upper vadose zone beneath Pajarito Canyon. Timing of installation of PCI-2 at the new location will allow inclusion of key geologic and hydrologic information in the revised Pajarito Canyon investigation report scheduled for submittal to NMED on August 31, 2009, and should also provide time to obtain a single round of analytical data.

Demonstration of completion of monitoring well PCI-2 is a stipulated-penalty requirement for fiscal year 2009, as set in NMED's letter dated July 15, 2008. The Laboratory will meet that requirement by installing PCI-2 at the new location by the required date of May 30, 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Everett at (505) 667-5931 (meverett@lanl.gov) or Suzy Schulman at (505) 606-1962 (sschulman@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/ME:sm

Enclosures: Two hard copies with electronic files – Drilling Work Plan for Intermediate Aquifer Well PCI-2 (LA-UR-09-1014)

Cy: (w/enc.)

Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo  
Suzy Schulman, DOE-LASO, MS A316  
Mark Everett, EP-LWSP, MS M992  
RPF, MS M707 (with two CDs)  
Public Reading Room, MS M992

Cy: (Letter and CD only)

Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX  
Steve Yanicak, NMED-OB, White Rock, NM  
Dave Broxton, EES-16, MS T003  
Danny Katzman, EP-LWSP, MS M992  
Kristine Smeltz, WES-DO, MS M992  
EP-LWSP File, MS M992

Cy: (w/o enc.)

Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM  
Keyana DeAguero, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991  
Alison M. Dorries, WES-DO, MS M992  
Paul Huber, EP-LWSP, MS M992  
IRM-RMMSO, MS A150 (date-stamped letter emailed)