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Date: August 29, 2009
Refer To: EP2009-0341

James 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 July 2009 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Water Stewardship Project (LWSP) met on August 12, 2009, to review new groundwater data received in July 2009. 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 August 12, 2009, and followed up with an email on the same day.

The four 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 one of these locations before June 14, 2007, also contained the same contaminants at concentrations above a standard. The other three instances are as follows:

- Antimony was found in an unfiltered sample collected from Mortandad Canyon regional aquifer monitoring well R-46 at 6.9 µg/L; the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maximum contaminant level (MCL) is 6 µg/L.
- Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate was detected in duplicate unfiltered samples collected from Mortandad Canyon regional aquifer monitoring well R-46 at 77.4 µg/L and 96.4 µg/L; the MCL is 6 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 (the Consent Order), modified on May 13, 2008. The report identifies data collected since June 14, 2007, that meet these criteria.

Beginning this month, the EPA Regional screening levels for tap water are used to screen results for compounds for which toxicological information is available, but have no other regulatory standard. These values replace the EPA Region 6 human health medium-specific screening level for tap water, which are specified in the Consent Order.

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,

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

Sincerely,

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

MG/DG/PH/AS/DR:sm

Enclosure: Two hard copies with electronic files – Summary of New Los Alamos National Laboratory Groundwater Data Loaded in July 2009 (LA-UR-09-4673)

Cy: (w/enc.)
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo
Suzy Schulman, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
RPF, MS M707 (with two CDs)
Public Reading Room, MS M992

Cy: (Letter and CD only)
Ardyth Simmons, EP-LWSP, MS M992
Kristine Smeltz, EP-WES, MS M992

Cy: (w/o enc.)
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-OB, White Rock, NM
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM
Keyana DeAguero, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
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Mei Ding, EES-6, MS J514
Florie Caporuscio, EES-6, MS J514
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Alison M. Dorries, EP-WES, MS M996
IRM-RMMSO, MS A150 (date-stamped letter emailed)