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Date: August 28, 2009
Refer To: EP2009-0408

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: Documentation of Installation of Stormwater Controls at Los Alamos Site Monitoring Area 2

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) is herein documenting enhancements to the stormwater control measures in the Los Alamos Site Monitoring Area 2 (LA-SMA-2) drainage, as directed by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approval with modifications letter dated May 5, 2009. Per the NMED letter dated July 29, 2009, the Laboratory has installed interim stormwater-control measures but will delay construction of the retention ponds to coordinate construction activities with the removal of contaminated soils and tuff in the drainage. The following interim measures were completed by August 1, 2009, except as noted.

- Juniper bales were staked in the main flow channel as small check dams. The upstream juniper bales were staked into place in the channel to capture heavier organic material. A second set of filter-wrapped juniper bales was staked into place approximately 20 ft downstream of the initial juniper bale installation to capture finer sediments. Existing downstream juniper bales were staked, and every other one was wrapped in filter fabric.

- Sediment retention in the deposition zone outside the channel was enhanced with the use of straw wattles as wings from the juniper bales.

- Terra-Tubes (designed to trap, filter, and treat [with polymer] sediment-laden runoff) were installed along the first juniper bale/wattle check dam and at the head of the channel. They were ordered and installed as soon as they were available (August 3, 2009), as per discussions with NMED.

- Downed logs just below the upper channel section were removed to allow stormwater to disperse out over the well-vegetated deposition zone.

- The upstream culvert is being monitored and maintained to ensure it is not plugged (ongoing).

The stormwater control measures are currently inspected on a weekly basis. Additional controls will be deployed, as needed, and in consultation with NMED. Please refer to the attached map for the placement of site controls and the photographs for examples of the installed control measures.

Per the July 29, 2009, NMED letter approving the Laboratory's extension request, the installation of the retention ponds will be completed by December 31, 2009, and documented in the report due to NMED by May 1, 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact Becky Coel-Roback at (505) 665-5011 (becky_cr@lanl.gov) or Cheryl Rodriguez at (505) 665-5330 (crodriguez2@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/DM/BCR:sm

Attachments: (1)Two hard copies with electronic files – Map of site controls and photographs of control measures installed at LA-SMA-2 (LA-UR-09-5312)

Cy: (w/enc.)
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo
Cheryl Rodriguez, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Becky Coel-Roback, EP-CAP, MS M992
RPF, MS M707 (with two CDs)
Public Reading Room, MS M992

Cy: (Letter and CD and/or DVD only)
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-OB, White Rock, NM
Kristine Smeltz, EP-WES, MS M992

Cy: (w/o enc.)
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM
Keyana DeAguero, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
David McInroy, EP-CAP, MS M992
Paul Huber, EP-LWSP, MS M992
Steve Veenis, EP-LWSP, MS K490
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991
Alison M. Dorries, EP-WES, MS M996
IRM-RMMSO, MS A150 (date-stamped letter emailed)