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Date: APR 01 2010
Refer To: EP2010-0136

James 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 on the Submittal Date for the Work Plan to Conduct a Reliability Assessment of Multiscreened Westbay Wells

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

This letter requests an extension from the current date of April 9, 2010, to May 27, 2010, for Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) to submit the Work Plan for the Reliability Assessment of Multiscreen Westbay Wells, as required by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on March 11, 2010.

The Laboratory has considered the overall objective of the reliability assessment that NMED required in its February 11, 2010, letter to the Laboratory and has reevaluated the use of the BESST, Inc., Hydrobooster technology. Although the use of BESST, Inc., Hydrobooster technology may meet the study objective, the Laboratory has concerns regarding the limited purging-rate capabilities of the Hydrobooster system (on the order of 0.1 to 0.2 gpm).

The Laboratory recommends an alternative approach that will provide a more robust means to evaluate the reliability of data collected from Westbay wells. The proposed approach involves completely removing selected Westbay sampling systems to enable conventional higher-flow purging through well screens using submersible pumps or Bennett pumps rather than low-flow purging through Westbay ports with the Hydrobooster system. This approach uses well-purging techniques (and flow rates) comparable with those currently used in Laboratory monitoring wells with dedicated sampling systems.


Analytical data from samples collected via conventional purging will be evaluated against historical Westbay data. The evaluation of this initial phase will provide data that will inform the Laboratory and NMED of the reliability of Westbay data and gather information useful to determine the best path forward for the remaining wells currently outfitted with Westbay sampling systems.


The extension request and proposed submittal date are based on the Laboratory's desire to evaluate the wells equipped with Westbay sampling systems (e.g., screen locations, geochemistry), to design the field campaign, and to revise the assessment approach. This approach represents a change in scope in the work plan that was scheduled to be submitted on April 9, 2010, and requires additional time to prepare.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Paris at (505) 606-0915 (smparis@lanl.gov) or Hai Shen at (505) 665-5046 (hshen@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

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


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

MG/DG/DM/SP:sm

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