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Date: APR 21 2010
Refer To: EP2010-0179

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 March 2010 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Members of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Environmental Programs staff met on April 14, 2010, to review new groundwater data received in March 2010. At that time, several groundwater samples were identified with contaminant concentrations above the New Mexico or federal water quality standards.

An Environmental Programs staff member notified the New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau about these findings by telephone on April 14, 2010, and followed up with an email on the same day.

The seven 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. These seven instances include the following:

- Chloride was found in a filtered sample collected from Sandia Canyon alluvial well SCA-1-DP at 263 mg/L; the New Mexico groundwater standard is 250 mg/L.
- Fluoride was found in a filtered sample and its associated field duplicate at Mortandad Canyon alluvial well MCO-2 (located in Effluent Canyon upstream from the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility outfall) at 8.75 mg/L and 8.48 mg/L, respectively; the New Mexico groundwater standard is 1.6 mg/L.
- Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate was found in an unfiltered sample and its associated field duplicate at Water Canyon intermediate well CdV-37-1(i) at 13 µg/L and 11.6 µg/L, respectively; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maximum contaminant level (MCL) is 6 µg/L.
- Arsenic was found in unfiltered samples collected from City of Santa Fe water supply wells Buckman 6 and Buckman 8 at 11.7 µg/L and 10.2 µg/L; the EPA MCL is 10 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, modified on May 13, 2008.

If you have questions, please contact Steve Paris at (505) 606-0915 (smparis@lanl.gov) or David Gregory at (505) 667-5808 (dgregory@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/SM/DR:sm

Enclosure: Two hard copies with electronic files – Summary of New Los Alamos National Laboratory Groundwater Data Loaded in March 2010 (LA-UR-10-1772)

Cy: (w/enc.)
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo
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Steve Paris, EP-CAP, 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-DOE-OB, MS M894
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Kristine Smeltz, EP-WES, MS M992

Cy: (w/o enc.)
Pete Padilla, Los Alamos County Utility Department, Los Alamos, NM
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM
David Rogers, EP-ET-DO, MS M992
Mei Ding, EES-6, MS J514
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991
IRM-RMMSO, MS A150 (date-stamped letter emailed)