



*Environmental Programs*  
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545  
(505) 606-2337/FAX (505) 665-1812



*National Nuclear Security Administration*  
Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316  
Environmental Restoration Program  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544  
(505) 667-4255/FAX (505) 606-2132

Date: **SEP 14 2010**  
Refer To: EP2010-0414

James Bearzi, Bureau Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

**Subject: Response to Review of the Periodic Monitoring Report for Los Alamos Watershed,  
January 7–January 19, 2010**

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

On June 22, 2010, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) submitted the subject document to the Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) requiring the Laboratory to provide an explanation of why analytical methods that cannot achieve the practical quantitation limits (PQL) and method detection limits below the cleanup levels are being used.

In NMED's May 4, 2010, approval with modifications of the 2009 Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan (IFGMP), NMED required the Laboratory to update Table C-4.0 of the IFGMP to include the applicable background and/or screening levels. NMED also required that for analytes where the PQL exceeds the applicable background and/or screening level, the Laboratory highlight the record and provide an explanation of each occurrence. Table C-4.0 has been updated per NMED's required modifications in the 2010 IFGMP, submitted on June 29, 2010. The updated Table C-4.0 also provides the information requested in NMED's June 22, 2010, letter.

The above-referenced periodic monitoring report for Los Alamos Watershed presents data collected under the 2009 IFGMP. The 2010 IFGMP explains why analytical methods that do not achieve PQLs are used.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Paris at (505) 606-0915 (smparis@lanl.gov) or Ed Worth at (505) 606-0398 (eworth@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

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

Sincerely,

George J. Rael, Manager  
Environmental Projects Office  
Los Alamos Site Office

MG/GR/DM/SP:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX  
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM  
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894  
Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316  
Ed Worth, DOE-LASO, MS A316  
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Craig Douglass, EP-CAP, MS M992  
Steve Paris, EP-CAP, MS M992  
Kristine Smeltz, EP-BPS, MS M992  
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991  
RPF, MS M707