

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 2 9 2010**
Refer To: EP2010-0429

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

Subject: Submittal of Request for Approval of Areas of Contamination for Investigation and Remediation Actions at Potrillo and Fence Canyon Aggregate Area Excavation Sites

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The purpose of this letter is to request approvals for four Areas of Contamination (AOC) designations for the investigation and remediation of Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) 15-007(a), 15-010(a), 15-008(a), 36-001, and 36-006 within Technical Areas (TAs) 15 and 36. Three of these SWMUs are not contiguous and therefore require a separate AOC while the remaining two SWMUs will share the fourth AOC. The Laboratory proposes that the AOCs' boundaries be designated to include the areas shown on the site map (Attachment 1). The Laboratory is requesting that the AOC determinations be effective through the completion of the investigation and remediation activities at the site.

Remediation activities to be conducted within the proposed areas of contamination include excavation of a septic tank, debris piles, trenches, and/or test pits; staging and sampling of environmental media; and segregation of debris from soils. Remedial actions will be conducted in accordance with the approved Potrillo and Fence Canyons Aggregate Area Investigation Work Plan, Revision 1, dated July 2009. Excavated overburden and layback environmental media that meet residential soil screening levels using New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) soil screening guidance will be returned to SWMUs 15-007(a), 15-008(a), 15-010(a), 36-001, 36-005, and 36-006, to be placed in the deeper portions of the excavation.

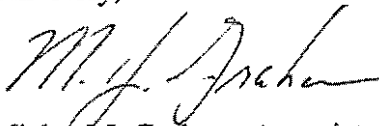
The primary purpose of requesting the areas of contamination boundaries is to facilitate on-site staging and segregation of remediation waste without triggering a new point of generation or placement of waste subject to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requirements.

All staging and segregation of waste will be conducted in an environmentally protective manner, using a combination of containers and appropriately designed and controlled staging piles. Materials will be containerized and managed in full accordance with hazardous waste regulatory requirements upon transfer outside of the AOC boundaries.

The Laboratory believes that designation of an AOC is needed to provide flexibility for on-site management of waste while in the process of making final waste determinations. Additionally, designation of an AOC will support managing materials that will be staged until they are returned to the excavation.

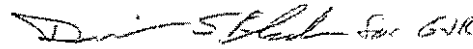
If you have any questions, please contact John McCann at (505) 665-1091 (jmccann@lanl.gov) or Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lwoodworth@doeal.gov).

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/JM:sm

Attachments: Site Schematics Designating Areas of Contamination (LA-UR-10-6328)

Cy: (w/att.)

Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo
Neelam Dhawan, NMED-HWB, Santa Fe, NM
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Woody Woodworth, DOE-LASO, MS A316
John McCann, EP-CAP, MS M992
Mike Fichtel, EP-CAP, MS992
Dave McInroy, EP-CAP, MS M992
Kristine Smeltz, EP-BPS, MS M992
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991
RPF, MS M707