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Date: **JAN 14 2011**
Refer To: EP2011-0039

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

Subject: Extension Request for the Report for Reliability Assessment of Multiscreen Westbay Wells

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

In Los Alamos National Laboratory's (the Laboratory's) work plan to conduct reliability assessment of multiscreen Westbay wells, the Laboratory proposed providing the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) a report presenting the results of the assessment by April 11, 2011. The purpose of this letter is to request an extension to July 29, 2011, to submit the report.

As explained below, the basis for the extension request is the time required to transition funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) project to projects under the Base Program, schedule the specialty contractor Schlumberger to remove the Westbay sampling equipment, and perform additional scope requested in NMED's June 15, 2010, approval with modifications letter.

Delays in implementing the work plan were caused by the transition of funding from the ARRA project to projects under the Base Program. Funding initially thought to be available through ARRA was ultimately needed at Material Disposal Area B, requiring a change of plans late in the Westbay procurement process.

Delays are also associated with subcontractor availability. Westbay equipment removals are required to be completed by the sole specialty subcontractor, Schlumberger, using proprietary equipment. Schlumberger personnel who can perform this work are limited and are first available to complete the work in mid-March.

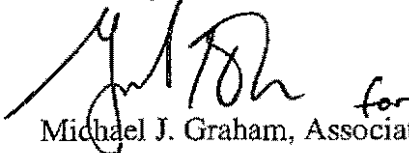
Finally, its June 15, 2010, letter, "Approval with Modifications (for the) Work Plan To Conduct Reliability Assessment of Multiscreened Westbay Wells, Los Alamos National Laboratory," NMED provided five modifications to the work plan. The Laboratory has provided the attached responses to these modifications and requests NMED concurrence or comments. It should be noted that additional development activities at CdV-R-15-3 and CdVR-37-2 were not included in the original duration of the field effort presented in the work plan and therefore extend the duration of field activities.

Based on the time estimated to field implement the work plan and prepare a report, Los Alamos National Security, LLC, and the U.S. Department of Energy request an extension of 109 days, until July 29, 2011, to submit the reliability assessment report for multiscreen Westbay wells.

The Technical Area 16 (TA-16) 260 Outfall monitoring-well network contains Westbay wells. This extension request will not impact the 260 Outfall groundwater corrective measures study (CMS) schedule. The Laboratory is currently engaged in drilling two regional wells (R-63 and R-47) and conducting an aquifer test to support the groundwater CMS process. All Westbay wells within the vicinity of TA-16 will be given high priority in order to include them in the network evaluation for the revised groundwater CMS report.

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,



for
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/CD/PH/SP/BW:sm

Enclosures: Two hard copies with electronic files – Response to the Approval with Modifications for the Work Plan to Conduct Reliability Assessment of Multiscreened Westbay Wells (LA-UR-11-0268)

Cy: (w/enc.)
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo
RPF, MS M707 (w/ 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-DOE-OB, MS M894
Mark Everett, EP-ET (w/ MS Word files on CD)
William Alexander, EP-BPS, MS M992

Cy: (w/o enc.)
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Cheryl Rodriguez, DOE-LASO, MS A316 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Bruce Wedgworth, EP-TA-21, MS C349 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Paul Huber, EP-TA-21, MS C349 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Steve Paris, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
John McCann, EP-CAP, MS992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Craig Douglass, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991 (date-stamped letter emailed)