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National Nuclear Security Administration
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Date: FEB 15 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0058

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

Subject: Extended Tritium Vapor Sampling at Material Disposal Area V

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The U.S. Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (collectively, the Laboratory) have received the November 24, 2010, letter from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) requesting addition tritium vapor monitoring at Material Disposal Area (MDA) V to support ongoing remediation work at MDA B.

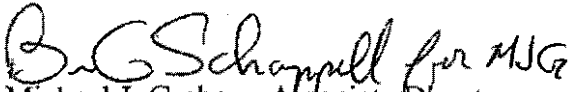
Vapor monitoring at MDA V was established and performed in accordance with NMED's September 2009 approval with modifications of the investigation work plan for the two new vapor-monitoring wells. The Laboratory submitted four quarterly tritium vapor monitoring reports in January, April, July, and October 2010, as required by NMED. A technical assessment of the four quarters sampling data showed very low tritium activities, consistent trends of tritium with depth, and no discernable evidence of continued downward migration. Accordingly, the October 2010 periodic monitoring report cover letter stated that the Laboratory would further evaluate the monitoring data to develop recommendations for future actions at MDA V. These recommendations and the supporting technical assessment will be submitted separately to NMED. The Laboratory is expecting that these future actions will include evaluation of the data and how they support the submittal of a certificate of completion for MDA V.

As noted in the November 24, 2010, letter, NMED is seeking additional tritium vapor monitoring at MDA V to collect data to support the ongoing remediation work at MDA B. The Laboratory resumed vapor sampling during the first quarter of the 2011 calendar year and will schedule quarterly monitoring for the remainder of the calendar year. The Laboratory will submit the periodic monitoring report for the first quarter sampling event in June 2011.

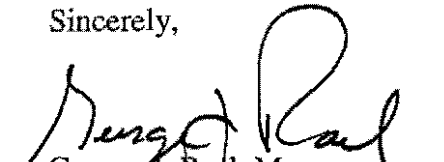
The Laboratory believes the continued tritium vapor monitoring at MDA V to support remediation work at MDA B is independent of future actions at MDA V. The Laboratory would like to meet with NMED to discuss how to document the completion of the administrative record at MDA V based upon the assessment of the tritium vapor monitoring data.

If you have any questions, please contact Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lwoodworth@doeal.gov) or Bruce Schappell at (505) 606-2337 (schapp@lanl.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/PH/BW:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamped letter emailed)
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