Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY
EST. 1943

Environmental Programs
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 606-2337FAX (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: MAR 2 3 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0103

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 February 2011 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Members of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Programs staff met on March 14, 2011, to review new groundwater data received in February 2011. 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 email on March 14, 2011, and followed up with a phone call (voice message) on March 15, 2011.

Mortandad Canyon regional aquifer well R-60, a newly constructed well, was sampled for the first time on December 16, 2010, and the results received in February 2011. The five instances of a contaminant above a standard for the first time associated with well R-60 are summarized below and tabulated in the attached report.

- Two polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon compounds were detected above screening levels in an unfiltered primary sample, and three were detected above screening levels in an unfiltered field duplicate sample.
  - ❖ Benzo(b)fluoranthene was found at estimated concentrations of 0.839 µg/L and 0.714 µg/L in the unfiltered primary and field duplicate samples, respectively; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tap water screening level is 0.29 µg/L.
  - ❖ Benzo(a)pyrene was estimated at concentrations of 0.851 µg/L and 0.769 µg/L in the unfiltered primary and field duplicate samples, respectively; the EPA maximum contaminant level is 0.2 µg/L.
  - ❖ Dibenz(a,h)anthracene was detected in the field duplicate, but not the primary sample, at 1.35 µg/L; the EPA tap water screening level is 0.029 µg/L.

This letter is our written submission that meets notification requirements laid out in Section IV.A.3.g of the Compliance Order on Consent, modified on May 13, 2008. The required information for the chemical constituents that meet the seven screening criteria contained in that section is given in the accompanying report and tables.

If you have questions, please contact Steve Paris at (505) 606-0915 (smparis@lanl.gov) or Hai Shen at (505) 665-5046 (hshen@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

for MJG

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

Sincerely,

for

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

MG/GR/CD/SP/DR:sm

Enclosure: Two hard copies with electronic files – Summary of New Los Alamos National Laboratory Groundwater Data Loaded in February 2011 (LA-UR-11-0937)

Cy: (w/enc.)
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo, NM
Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Ed Worth, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Steve Paris, EP-CAP, MS M992
Jake Meadows, ENV-RCRA, MS K490
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-OB, MS M894
Ardyth Simmons, EP-ET, MS M992
William Alexander, EP-BPS, MS M992

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