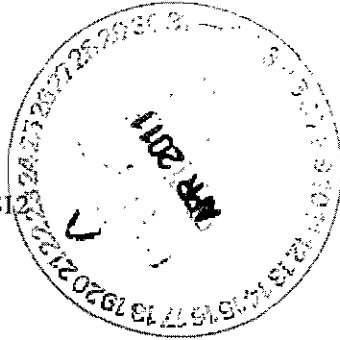




Environmental Programs
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 606-2337/FAX (505) 665-1812



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: APR 22 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0144

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 March 2011 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

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

The two instances of a contaminant above a standard for the first time (based on samples collected since June 14, 2007) are tabulated in the attached report and summarized below:

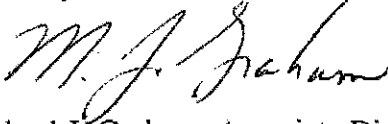
- Aluminum and iron were found in a filtered sample from Pajarito Canyon regional well R-32 at 6850 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and 3850 $\mu\text{g/L}$, respectively; the respective New Mexico groundwater standards are 5000 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and 1000 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

These results are inconsistent with historical data and appear to be an analytical laboratory error. The Laboratory has requested that the sample be reanalyzed. R-32 was converted to a single-screen well in 2007. Since that time, 19 previous filtered and unfiltered aluminum results were nondetects (method detection limit [MDL] of 68 $\mu\text{g/L}$), as was the unfiltered result for the sample reported above. Similarly, the filtered iron results have been either nondetects (MDL of 30 $\mu\text{g/L}$) or less than 143 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Unfiltered iron results have been either nondetect or less than 280 $\mu\text{g/L}$. The unfiltered iron result for the sample reported above was nondetect.

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.

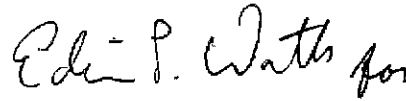
If you have questions, please contact Steve Paris at (505) 606-0915 (smparis@lanl.gov) or Hai Shen at (505) 665-5046 (hshen@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,



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/SP/DR:sm.

Enclosure: Two hard copies with electronic files – Summary of New Los Alamos National Laboratory Groundwater Data Loaded in March 2011 (LA-UR-11-2181)

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, White Rock, NM
William Alexander, EP-BPS, MS M992

Cy: (w/o enc.)

Pete Padilla, Los Alamos County Utility Dept., P.O. Box 1030, Los Alamos, NM 87544
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Mei Ding, EES-6, MS J514 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Ardyth Simmons, EP-ET, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
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