



ACTION REQUIRED

# IRM-RMMSO Official Correspondence Form

Name:	U1100510			
Title:	Approval with Modifications Investigation Report S-Site Aggregate Area LANL EPA ID NM0890010515 HWB-LANL-10-071			
Date Received:	3/18/2011			
Addressee Name:	M. Graham, ADEP			
Originator:	J. Bearzi, NMED			
Action Item Description:				
Action Due Date:	9/15/2011			
Responsible for Action:	Search <u>Graham, Michael J</u>			
Responsible Office:	ADEP			
Distribution:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Michael J. Graham  Isaac E. RichardsonIII  Michael B. Mallory  David J. McInroy  Phoebe K. Suina  William Z. Alexander  Tina M. Sandoval </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Michael R. Anastasio  Richard A. Marquez  Deborah K. Woitte  James C. Cantwell  Anthony R. Grieggs  Victoria A. George  Scotty Jones </td> </tr> </table>		Michael J. Graham Isaac E. RichardsonIII Michael B. Mallory David J. McInroy Phoebe K. Suina William Z. Alexander Tina M. Sandoval	Michael R. Anastasio Richard A. Marquez Deborah K. Woitte James C. Cantwell Anthony R. Grieggs Victoria A. George Scotty Jones
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U1100510



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SUSANA MARTINEZ  
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ  
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

*Hazardous Waste Bureau*

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030

[www.nmenv.state.nm.us](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us)



DAVE MARTIN  
Cabinet Secretary

RAJ SOLOMON, P.E.  
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 16, 2011

George J. Rael, Assistant Manager  
Environmental Projects Office  
Department of Energy/National  
Nuclear Security Administration  
Los Alamos Site Office  
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham, Associate Director  
Environmental Programs  
Los Alamos National Security, LLC  
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATIONS  
INVESTIGATION REPORT  
S-SITE AGGREGATE AREA  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-10-071**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) *Investigation Report for S-Site Aggregate Area, Revision 1* (Report), dated February 2011 and referenced by LA-UR-11-0561/EP2011-0012 and the *Response to the Notice of Disapproval for the Investigation Report for S-Site Aggregate Area* (Response). NMED hereby issues this Approval with Modifications for the Report and provides following comments. The comment numbers correspond to the December 22, 2010 Notice of Disapproval (NOD) to which the Response refers.

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**General Comments:**

1. The Response explains that the construction worker receptor was not evaluated at solid waste management units (SWMUs) 16-004(a), 16-004(e), 16-017(p)-99, and 16-029(d) because no demolition and decommissioning or remediation activities are proposed at these sites. NMED agrees that evaluation of a construction worker receptor was not warranted at these sites. However, it is unclear whether the construction worker receptor will be evaluated in all future risk assessments. To clarify, all future risk assessments including those conducted at S-Site Aggregate Area must include the evaluation of all potential receptors if corrective action complete is proposed for these sites. This would include the construction worker receptor, whether or not demolition and decommissioning or remediation activities are proposed, because for some metals, the screening levels for a construction worker are more conservative than those for a resident, as explained in Comment # 1.
3. Although the extent of contamination at the Courtyard Periphery Area remains undefined, the Report states that the site poses no unacceptable risks/hazards to recreational and ecological receptors. Such conclusions cannot be drawn from a risk assessment based on data from an exposure area where the extent of contamination has not been defined. NMED acknowledges that additional samples will be collected as part of the Phase II investigations (*See* the Response to this comment and the Report). An updated risk assessment is warranted to address the risks/hazards to recreational and ecological receptors as additional data become available and after the extent of contamination at the Courtyard Periphery Area has been adequately characterized.

**Specific Comments:**

**6. Section 6.9.5.1, Inorganic Chemicals, page 52:**

In the Response, Table 6.9-2 was corrected and the text in Section 6.9.5.1 was revised. The text should not have been revised because corrections made to the table resolved the discrepancies noted in the NOD comment. The text revisions created additional discrepancies. The text states that copper was detected at six locations and the revised Table 6.9-2 indicates that copper was detected at only five locations and was not detected at location 11-611744; the text states that chromium was detected at two locations above its Qbt 2, Qbt 3, and Qbt 4 background value (BV) and the revised table indicates chromium was detected above BV at three locations including location 11-611744. These discrepancies do not change the conclusion that the vertical extent of contamination is not defined for chromium and copper at SWMU 11-005(c). No revisions to the report are required at this time because the Permittees propose to collect additional samples at SWMU 11-005(c) to define the vertical extent of contamination.

**11. Section 7.15.5.4, Summary of Extent, page 109:**

The Report states that the direction of potential contaminant migration is into the subsurface below the Imhoff tank. Samples collected only from the periphery of the structure and not from beneath the structure leave a data gap in characterization of site. Although the Permittees may defer the investigations until the decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of the former wastewater treatment plant, additional samples must be collected beneath the structure to define the nature and extent of contamination (*See* also NOD Comment). A Certificate of Completion cannot be issued for SWMU 16-004(a) until investigations are complete at the site.

**12. Section 7.16.5, Spatial Distribution, page 111:**

The Report states that the direction of potential contaminant migration is downward. Samples collected from the perimeter locations are not sufficient to define the nature and extent of contamination. While further investigations may be deferred until the D&D of the former wastewater treatment plant, additional samples must be collected in the center and beneath the trickling filter, when it becomes accessible to sample, to define the nature and extent of contamination (*See* also NOD Comment). A Certificate of Completion cannot be issued for SWMU 16-004(b) until investigations are complete at the site.

**13. Section 7.17.5, Spatial Distribution, page 114:**

The Report states that the direction of potential contaminant is downward. Samples collected from the perimeter locations are not sufficient to define the nature and extent of contamination. While the investigations may be deferred until the D&D of the former wastewater treatment plant, additional samples must be collected in the center and beneath the clarifier tank, when it becomes accessible to sample, to define the nature and extent of contamination (*See* also NOD Comment). A Certificate of Completion cannot be issued for SWMU 16-004(c) until investigations are complete at the site.

**22. Section 8.8.5.2, Organic Chemicals, page 151:**

- a. The reference to location 16-609190 in the NMED's NOD comment should be to location 16-160215.
- b. The concentrations of several organic chemicals initially decrease downgradient from the source, but increase again downgradient towards the opposite end of the SWMU indicating off-site migration of contamination. Pyrene was detected at 8.23 mg/kg at upgradient location 16-609189 (0-0.5 ft). The concentration decreased to 0.628 mg/kg at downgradient location 16-609190 (0-0.5 ft), and increased to 15.2 mg/kg at a sample location 16-609215 (0-0.5 ft) located further downgradient. Concentrations of fluoranthene and phenanthrene increased at location 16-609215 compared to upgradient location 16-609189. HMX (1,3,5,7-

location 16-609189. HMX (1,3,5,7-tetranitro-1,3,5,7-tetrazocine) concentrations increased from location 16-609189 (20.1 mg/kg) to the downgradient location 16-01457 (143 mg/kg). In light of this, the Response statement “[t]herefore, the assertion that the lateral extent of contamination at SWMU 16-026(b) is defined remains” is not accurate. Propose additional samples to determine the extent of off-site migration of contamination from SWMU 16-026(b) during the Phase II investigations, as required by Section IX of the Consent Order and 40 C.F.R. § 264.101.

- c. The results from sampling locations 16-01457, 16-609215, and 16-609216 that should be used to determine the lateral extent and off-site migration are depicted on Figure 8.8-3, but are not included in Table 8.8-3.

**27. Section 8.16.5.1, Inorganic Chemicals, pages 183-186:**

Plate 26 indicates that concentrations of several inorganic chemicals increased at the farthest downgradient sampling locations (16-608466 and 16-608467). The concentrations of barium, copper, lead, and vanadium were higher at downgradient locations indicating lateral extent is not defined in the Martin Spring Canyon drainage. Propose sampling to define the lateral extent of contamination in the drainages during Phase II investigations.

**29. Section 9.5.5.1, Inorganic Chemicals, pages 205:**

The lateral extent of inorganic contamination is not defined at SWMU 16-029(x). Additional samples must be collected east of sampling location 16-03174 to define the lateral extent during Phase II investigations (See also NOD Comment).

**38. Table 8.10-3, Summary of Organic Chemicals Detected at SWMU 16-026(d), page 595:**

Table 8.10-3 was revised to incorporate data for several organic chemicals that was missing in the August 2010 Investigation Report. However, data for benzoic acid was not included as required by the NOD comment. The extent of contamination is not defined at SWMU 16-026(d), and further investigations are proposed. Include this data in future submittals.

Messrs. Rael and Graham  
March 16, 2011  
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The Permittees must submit the Phase II investigation work plan for S-Site Aggregate Area no later than **September 15, 2011**. Please contact Neelam Dhawan of my staff at (505) 476-6042 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: R. Solomon, Acting Director, NMED WWMD  
J. Kieling, NMED HWB  
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993  
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB  
L. King, EPA 6PD-N  
W. Woodworth, DOE-LASO, MS A316  
S. Veenis, EP-CAP, MS K490  
J. McCann, EP-CAP, MS K992

File: LANL, S-Site Aggregate Area IR, 2011, LANL 10-071

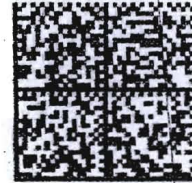
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State of New Mexico  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East-Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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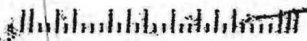
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Michael J. Graham, Associate Director  
Environmental Programs  
Los Alamos National Security, LLC  
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991, *MS-A-150*  
Los Alamos, NM 87545



NAME *J. Loreen Montoya*  
Z# *086365*  
DATE *3-18-11*