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Date: JUN 09 2011

Refer To: EP2011-0214

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

Subject: Request for Extension for Completion of R-62 and SCI-3



Dear Mr. Kieling:

The purpose of this letter is to request an extension to the date for completing wells R-62 and SCI-3. Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) submitted the Drilling Work Plan for Well R-62 (EP2010-0483) to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on October 29, 2010, and the work plan for SCI-3 (EP2011-0017) on January 28, 2011. The work plans proposed an NMED completion date of June 30, 2011, for R-62 and July 31, 2011, for SCI-3. Both completion dates were approved by NMED and allow three quarters of sampling of both wells to be completed and incorporated in the Sandia Canyon Phase II Investigation Report (IR), which is due to NMED on April 30, 2012.

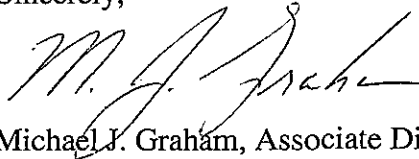
The Laboratory has completed the access road and drilling pad and is ready to begin drilling. Unfortunately, the Laboratory's subcontractor does not anticipate being able to start this well until late June because of the delayed availability of drill rig equipment required to drill these wells. The Laboratory has procured a subcontractor who will employ a more technically reliable approach to drilling, using nonflooded reverse-circulation dual-tube drilling pipe, with the option for casing advance where needed. This new approach offers the possibility of drilling more of each borehole open hole, without the need to advance the casing with the drill bit, and will allow for more open hole geophysical and video logging than the current casing advance methods. Unfortunately, the tooling required for this method is backlogged across the country, and this fact was not known by our new professional services subcontractor or the Laboratory until this week.

Once started in late June, R-62 and SCI-3 will be drilled sequentially using two shifts for 24-hour-a-day operations. However, neither well will be NMED complete until after the approved completion dates referenced above. Therefore, the Laboratory is requesting an extension for the completion of R-62 to August 19, 2011, and to August 30, 2011, for the completion of SCI-3.

The Laboratory believes this 49-day delay in completing well R-62 and 30-day delay in completing SCI-3 will not impact the Laboratory's ability to collect and analyze the three quarters of sampling required before the Sandia Canyon Phase II IR is submitted. To meet the IR schedule, the first quarter of sampling in each well will be conducted at the end of aquifer testing. The second quarter of sampling will occur in November 2011, and the third quarter of sampling will occur in February 2012. This schedule will leave the remainder of February, March, and April for the final analyses to be completed and the data validated and incorporated into the Sandia Canyon Phase II IR by April 30, 2012.

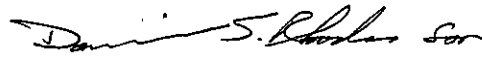
If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Steve Veenis at (505) 667-0013 (veenis@lanl.gov) or Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lwoodworth@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,



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

Sincerely,



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

MG/GR/CD/TB/ME: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)
Woody Woodworth, DOE-LASO, MS A316 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Ted Ball, EP-CAP, MS M996 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Craig Douglass, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991 (date-stamped letter emailed)
William Alexander, EP-BPS, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
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