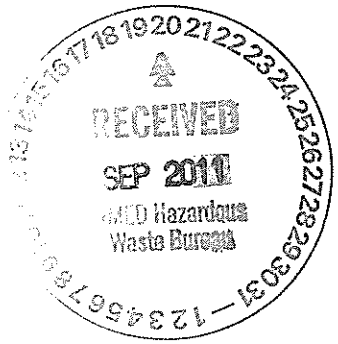
ERID-206436

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: SEP 2 0 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0314

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: Review of August 2011 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Kieling:

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

The three 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. These instances are the following:

- Benzo(a)pyrene was found at 0.29 µg/L in an unfiltered sample collected June 10, 2011, from Water Canyon regional aquifer well R-29; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maximum contaminant level is 0.2 µg/L. This is the first detection of this compound in seven samples from six sample events at the well and is likely the result of cross-contamination during sampling or analysis.

- Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene and dibenz(a,h)anthracene were found at 0.447 µg/L and 0.468 µg/L, respectively, in an unfiltered sample collected June 15, 2011, from Water Canyon regional aquifer well R-30; the respective EPA tap water screening levels are 0.29 µg/L and 0.029 µg/L. This is the first detection of these compounds in nine samples from five sample events at the well and is likely the result of cross-contamination during sampling or analysis.

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 (hai.shen@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

B. G Schappell for MJG

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

Sincerely,

Cheryl D Rodriguez

George J. Rael, Assistant 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 August 2011 (LA-UR-11-5089)

Cy: (w/enc.)
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo, NM
Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Steve Paris, EP-CAP, MS M992
RPF, MS M707 (electronic copy)
Public Reading Room, MS M992 (hard copy)

Cy: (Letter and CD/DVD only)
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Ed Worth, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Jake Meadows, ENV-RCRA, MS K490
Steve Yanicak, NMED-OB, MS M894
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, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Mei Ding, EES-6, MS J514 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Ardyth Simmons, EP-ET, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Craig Douglass, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991 (date-stamped letter emailed)