



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: SEP 27 2011

Refer To: EP2011-0280

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: Las Conchas Wildfire Effects and Mitigation Actions in Affected Canyons

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Enclosed please find two hard copies with electronic files of the Las Conchas Wildfire Effects and Mitigation Actions in Affected Canyons.

The Las Conchas wildfire started on June 26, 2011, in the Jemez Mountains, approximately 10 mi west of Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory). Although the fire did not burn on Laboratory property, it did burn the upper portions of three of the major watersheds on Laboratory property: the Los Alamos Canyon, Pajarito Canyon, and Water Canyon watersheds. In response to this increased flood risk, the Laboratory implemented mitigation actions during and after the fire to lessen the potential for flood damage. Although these efforts were effective in reducing the impacts of floods, several heavy rainfall events in late August 2011 resulted in flooding significant enough to result in damage to Laboratory structures. This report identifies the effects of the wildfire and subsequent flooding on the Laboratory, describes completed mitigation actions, and identifies major issues of concern.

If you have any questions, please contact Craig Douglass at (505) 231-9478 (craigd@lanl.gov) or Hai Shen at (505) 665-5046 (hai.shen@nnsa.doe.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/SV:sm

Enclosures: Two hard copies with electronic files – Las Conchas Wildfire Effects and Mitigation Actions in Affected Canyons (LA-UR-11-4793)

Cy: (w/enc.)

Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo
Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Craig Douglass, EP-CAP, MS M992
Steve Veenis, EP-CAP, MS M997
RPF, MS M707 (electronic copy)
Public Reading Room, MS M992 (hard copy)

Cy: (Letter and CD and/or DVD)

Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
William Alexander, EP-BPS, MS M992

Cy: (w/o enc.)

Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Tori George, EP-REG, MS M991 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Dave McInroy, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991 (date-stamped letter emailed)