

**Environmental Programs**

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**National Nuclear Security Administration**

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Date: DEC 14 2011

Refer To: EP2011-0410

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 November 2011 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Members of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Programs Directorate staff met on December 8, 2011, to review new groundwater data received in November 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 December 8, 2011, and followed up with a phone call (voice message) on the same day.

The six 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:


- Lead was found at 16.7 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in an unfiltered sample collected on September 19, 2011, from Water Canyon intermediate well R-26 PZ-2; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water system action level is 15 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Lead has not been detected in filtered samples but has been found in previous unfiltered samples, probably from abrasion of well or sampling equipment.
- Tetrachloroethene was found at 5.03 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in an unfiltered sample collected on September 19, 2011, from Water Canyon intermediate well 16-26644; the EPA maximum contaminant level is 5 $\mu\text{g/L}$. This compound has been found in previous samples collected since April 2010 at concentrations up to 3.7 $\mu\text{g/L}$.
- Four polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon compounds were found in an unfiltered field duplicate sample (but not in the primary sample) collected at Spring 4 in White Rock Canyon on October 5, 2011. The presence of these compounds may be from contamination during sampling or laboratory analysis. Only one of the compounds, benzo(b)fluoranthene, was previously detected at the spring in 15 total sampling events. In the recent sample,

indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene was found at 0.568 µg/L, above the 0.29 µg/L EPA tap water screening level; benzo(b)fluoranthene was found at 0.58 µg/L, above the 0.29 µg/L EPA tap water screening level; benzo(a)pyrene was found at 0.636 µg/L, above the 0.2 µg/L EPA maximum contaminant level; and dibenz(a,h)anthracene was found at 0.466 µg/L, above the 0.029 µg/L EPA tap water screening level.


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,


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/SP/DR:sm

Enclosure: Two hard copies with electronic files – Summary of New Los Alamos National Laboratory Groundwater Data Loaded in November 2011 (LA-UR-11-6959)

Cy: (w/enc.)
RPF, MS M707 (electronic copy)
Public Reading Room, MS M992 (hard copy)

Cy: (Letter and CD/DVD only)
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Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-OB, MS M894
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Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Jake Meadows, ENV-RCRA, MS K490
Steve Paris, EP-CAP, MS M992
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