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Date: FEB 02 2012  
Refer To: EP2012-0025

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: Submittal of Additional Information Related to the 2011 Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan, Revision 1, Dated December 14, 2011**

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security (LANS), LLC, originally submitted the 2011 Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan (the Interim Plan) on August 15, 2011. After the plan was submitted, DOE and LANS reprioritized much of the work scheduled in fiscal year 2012 (FY2012) under the March 2005 Compliance Order on Consent (the Consent Order) to focus efforts on accelerating the shipment of aboveground transuranic (TRU) waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory's Technical Area 54 (TA-54), Area G, to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Additionally, the FY2012 budget was significantly lower than anticipated.

This lower-than-expected funding and the reprioritization to accelerate TRU shipments triggered DOE and LANS to reevaluate the groundwater monitoring proposed in the August 15, 2011, version of the Interim Plan. DOE and LANS subsequently submitted a revised Interim Plan on December 14, 2011.

This reevaluation identified monitoring necessary to support key decisions while fully maintaining groundwater protection. In general, the revised Interim Plan proposes a reduction in monitoring in alluvial wells and surface water stations with a history of showing little or no contamination while still maintaining the ability to monitor ongoing operations and potential migration of legacy contaminants. Monitoring of deeper groundwater zones at specific project areas (i.e., monitoring groups in the Interim Plan), including TA-54, TA-21, Material Disposal Area (MDA) AB, MDA C, TA-16 260 Outfall, and the chromium investigation is retained from the August 15, 2011, version but with a focused perspective on continuing to collect data sufficient to support pending decisions and remedy selection, where applicable.

DOE and LANS will continue to evaluate groundwater monitoring to ensure the protection of human health and the environment, including annual updates to the Interim Plan.

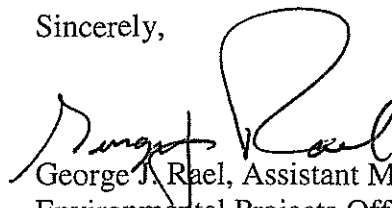
If you have any questions, please contact Jarrett Rice at (505) 665-3874 (wjrice@lanl.gov) or Peter Maggiore at (505) 665-5025 (peter.maggiore@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael J. Graham, Associate Director  
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Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



George J. Rael, Assistant Manager  
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MG/GR/CD/TG:sm

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