

**Environmental Programs**

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**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
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Date: **MAR 08 2012**  
Refer To: EP2012-0066

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 to Respond to Notice of Disapproval for Investigation Report for Water Canyon/Cañon de Valle**

Dear Mr. Kieling:

This letter requests an extension to the March 15, 2012, due date to submit a response to the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) February 14, 2012, notice of disapproval (NOD) for the investigation report (IR) for Water Canyon/Cañon de Valle (HWB-LANL-11-080).

As noted in the NOD, areas of the Water Canyon/Cañon de Valle watershed were impacted by post-Las Conchas fire flooding. As required by the NOD, a reconnaissance survey will be performed to evaluate and document flood impacts. The U.S. Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (DOE/LANS) believe the results of the reconnaissance survey should be evaluated for potential impacts on the results of the IR before the IR is revised. The NOD specifies submitting the reconnaissance survey report by May 31, 2012.

As you know, the last several months have been dedicated to prioritizing fiscal year (FY) 2012 work to support accelerating the shipment of aboveground transuranic waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory's Technical Area 54, Area G, to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Additionally, the FY2012 budget was significantly less than anticipated. Based on the effort required to implement the reconnaissance survey, the low funding levels, and the prioritization of FY2012 work, DOE/LANS request a 60-day extension, until July 30, 2012, to submit the reconnaissance survey report, and an extension to January 31, 2013, to submit the response to the NOD and the revised IR.

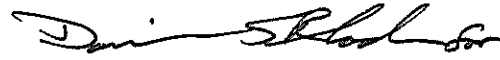
If you have any questions, please contact Steve Veenis at (505) 667-0013 (veenis@lanl.gov) or Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lance.woodworth@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,



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

Sincerely,



George J. Rael, Assistant Manager  
Environmental Projects Office  
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MG/GR/CD/SV:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX  
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo  
Joe Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo  
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894  
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Woody Woodworth, DOE-LASO, MS A316 (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Cheryl Rodriguez, DOE-LASO, MS A316 (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Steve Veenis, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)  
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