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Date: APR 25 2012
Refer To: EP2012-0087

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 March 2012 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Members of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Programs staff met on April 12, 2012, to review new groundwater data received in March 2012. At that time, several groundwater samples were identified with contaminant concentrations above the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission 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 April 12, 2012, 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.

- A January 12, 2012, sample from the 892-ft intermediate screen (screen 2) of Cañon de Valle well R-25 contained filtered iron, manganese, and nickel above their respective New Mexico groundwater standards. The last sample collected for off-site metals analysis was in 2005, and filtered iron and nickel concentrations were above the standards at that time. The new sample contained filtered iron at 20,900 µg/L, above the 1000 µg/L standard; earlier values were 2310 µg/L or lower.
- The January 12, 2012, sample from R-25 screen 2 contained filtered manganese at 686 µg/L, above the 200 µg/L standard; earlier values were 150 µg/L or lower.
- The January 12, 2012, sample from R-25 screen 2 contained filtered nickel at 3730 µg/L, above the 200 µg/L standard; earlier values were 520 µg/L or lower.

All instances of contaminants above standards described above are considered to be associated with conditions in the well and not confirmed groundwater contaminants.

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 contaminants and other chemical parameters 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,

Dennis S Hobbs for

Peter Maggiore, Assistant Manager
Environmental Projects Office
Los Alamos Site Office

MG/PM/CD/SP/DR:sm

Enclosure: Two hard copies with electronic files – Summary of New Los Alamos National Laboratory Groundwater Data Loaded in March 2012 (LA-UR-12-20518)

Cy: (w/enc.)
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
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo, NM
Jake Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo, NM
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)
Craig Douglass, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
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