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Date: **AUG 10 2012**
 Refer To: EP2012-0192

John Kieling, Bureau Chief
 Hazardous Waste Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
 Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

Subject: Clarification of June 18, 2012, Proposal to Perform Interim Measure Alternatives Analysis for Chromium in Sandia and Mortandad Canyons

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) submitted a Proposal to Perform Interim Measure Alternatives Analysis for Chromium in Sandia and Mortandad Canyons on June 18, 2012. The Laboratory would like to provide clarification regarding the intent of the June 18, 2012, letter. The Laboratory intended to inform the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) that it was proactively evaluating the need for an interim measure to address the chromium contamination in Sandia and Mortandad Canyons.

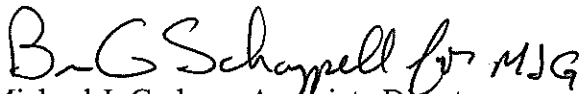
The Laboratory submitted the Investigation Report for Sandia Canyon in October 2009. This report presented the results of investigations conducted since the initial 2005 identification of chromium contamination in groundwater. NMED responded with an approval with direction and required additional investigations, including the installation of new groundwater monitoring wells. The Phase II Investigation Report for Sandia Canyon, which will be submitted to NMED by September 30, 2012, will present data from the expanded monitoring network and update the conceptual model to address recent chromium detections in the regional aquifer monitoring wells.

Based on recent increases in chromium concentrations at wells R-43 and R-50, as well as new data collected at recently completed wells R-61 and R-62, the Laboratory intended its June 18, 2012, letter to inform NMED that it was going to conduct a thoughtful approach to evaluating technologies that may support potential interim measures to address the chromium contamination in groundwater. The Laboratory's approach will include experts external to the Laboratory with experience in chromium remediation technologies.


Because the external expert panel and the Laboratory have not yet completed their evaluation of potential technologies, the Laboratory has not concluded that any specific interim measure is currently appropriate. Therefore, the Laboratory cannot commit to submitting an interim measures work plan, as specified in the June 18, 2012, letter. Rather, should the Laboratory's evaluation process result in identifying a viable approach for conducting an interim measure, the Laboratory will submit a written request to conduct interim measures in accordance with Section VII.B.1 of the Consent Order. Upon NMED's approval of the Laboratory's proposal, the Laboratory will submit an interim measures work plan within 90 days for NMED review and approval.

If you have any questions, please contact John McCann at (505) 665-1091 (jmccann@lanl.gov) or Cheryl Rodriguez at (505) 665-5330 (cheryl.rodriguez@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,


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

Sincerely,


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

MG/PM/DM/JM:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
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Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
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