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Date: AUG 27 2012
Refer To: EP2012-0193

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

Subject: Response to the Approval with Modifications for the Completion Report for Regional Aquifer Well R-66

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, LLC, operators of Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory), are in receipt of the New Mexico Environment Department's approval with modifications for the Completion Report for Regional Aquifer Well R-66.

Upon receipt of the approval with modifications, it came to the Laboratory's attention that the discussion in General Comment 2 regarding toluene and bis-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate refers to these two compounds using units of concentration in milligrams per liter (mg/L). The Laboratory identified an error in the units in the header in Table B-2.2-1. The units for these two constituents should have been shown as micrograms per liter (µg/L) instead of mg/L. Groundwater standards in the far right-hand column are presented in the correct units of mg/L. The reported toluene detection of 2.81 µg/L is well below the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission standard of 0.75 mg/L and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 1 mg/L. The bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate concentration of 25.8 µg/L exceeds the EPA MCL of 6 µg/L, although this reference standard was not shown in the table. It is important to note, however, that these results are for samples collected during well development and are not directly applicable to groundwater standards intended for comparison with samples representative of ambient groundwater conditions. Data from monitoring samples collected under the Interim Facility-wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan have not shown detections of these two compounds. The units for these constituents have always been correctly reported in the database.

As noted in the approval with modifications, during the early stages of well development, an "oily" sheen and "diesel" smell were noted on the surface of the water in the compositing barrel. This sheen and smell were not present by the end of well development.

If you have any questions, please contact Ted Ball at (505) 665-3996 (tedball@lanl.gov) or Lance (Woody) Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lance.woodworth@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/CD/TB:sm

Cy: (w/enc.)
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