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Date: FEB 01 2013
Refer To: EP2013-0032

Ms. Hannah Branning
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Compliance and Assurance Division
Water Enforcement Branch (6EN)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Ms. Diana McDonald
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Compliance and Assurance Division
Water Enforcement Branch (6EN)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Subject: NPDES Permit No. NM0030759 – Submittal of the Report on Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Precipitation and Stormwater within the Upper Rio Grande Watershed for the Administrative Record

Dear Mses. Branning and McDonald:

During the October 29, 2012, meeting with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), representatives of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) indicated we would submit a copy of the report entitled Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Precipitation and Stormwater within the Upper Rio Grande Watershed (PCB Background Report) to the EPA. DOE and Los Alamos National Security, LLC, request that this report be made part of the administrative record for NPDES Permit No. NM0030759.

Prepared as part of a cooperative investigation by DOE, the New Mexico Environment Department–DOE Oversight Bureau, and LANL, the PCB Background Report presents baseline, base-flow, and storm-flow concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in certain surface waters located in the upper Rio Grande watershed and in areas in and around LANL. The objectives of this study were to establish (1) baseline levels of PCB concentrations in precipitation and snowpack near Los Alamos, New Mexico, and from alpine peaks overlooking the northern Rio Grande watershed up to the state border with Colorado; (2) baseline levels of PCB concentrations in stormwater in northern New Mexico streams and arroyos that are tributaries to the Rio Grande and Rio Chama; (3) the range of PCB concentrations found in the Rio Grande during base-flow (dry weather flow) and storm-flow conditions; (4) baseline levels of PCBs in stormwater from undeveloped watersheds of the Pajarito Plateau and the northeast flank of the Jemez Mountains near Los Alamos; (5) the concentrations of PCBs in urban runoff from the Los Alamos townsite adjacent to LANL; and (6) how these findings may be used to target significant sources of PCBs.

If you have questions, please contact Steve Veenis at (505) 667-0013 (veenis@lanl.gov).

Sincerely,

Steve Veenis

Steve Veenis, Project Manager
Environmental Programs
Corrective Actions Program
Los Alamos National Laboratory

SV:sm

Attachment: Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Precipitation and Stormwater within the Upper Rio Grande Watershed (LA-UR-12-1081)

Cy: Isaac Chen, USEPA/Region 6, Dallas, TX (date-stamp emailed)
Renee Ryland, USEPA/Region 6, Dallas, TX (date-stamp emailed)
James Hogan, NMED/SWQB, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamp emailed)
lasomailbox@nnsa.doe.gov (date-stamped letter emailed)
David Rhodes, DOE-NA-00-LA (date-stamp emailed)
Kate Lynnes, EP-REG (date-stamp emailed)
Tori George, EP-REG (date-stamp emailed)
Steve Veenis, EP-CAP (date-stamp emailed)
Dave McInroy, EP-CAP (date-stamp emailed)
Jeff Mousseau, ADEP (date-stamp emailed)
Wendy Staples, EP-BPS (date-stamp emailed)
Public Reading Room, MS M992 (Report submitted in May 2012)
RPF (Report submitted in May 2012)