



**Environmental Programs**  
 P.O. Box 1663, MS M991  
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545  
 (505) 606-2337/FAX (505) 665-1812



**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
 Los Alamos Field Office, MS A316  
 Environmental Projects Office  
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544  
 (505) 667-4255/FAX (505) 606-2132



Date: **NOV 13 2013**  
 Refer To: EP2013-0248

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

**Subject: Request to Waive the Two-Phase Purge Test at R-29**

Dear Mr. Kieling:

This letter requests a waiver of the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) requirement for a two-phase purge test at well R-29 by October 21, 2013, as specified in NMED's letter, Approval with Modifications (for) Completion Report for Regional Aquifer Well R-29, dated August 19, 2011.

In its approval with modifications letter, NMED expressed concerns that AQF-2 drilling foam may have entered the R-29 screened interval, perhaps because elevated concentrations of filtered iron and manganese were detected in early groundwater samples from R-29. Because of these concerns, NMED required that a two-phase purge test be conducted at the well. This test would consist of pumping 10,000 gal. from R-29, followed by a 15-day period of nonpumping, and then pumping an additional 10,000 gal. of water.

Recent groundwater data indicate that after appropriate purge volumes are removed, data from R-29 do not exhibit reducing conditions. Field indicator parameters, such as dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, and pH (Figure 1 in Attachment 1), are within normal ranges, and filtered iron and manganese concentrations (Figures 2 and 3 in Attachment 1) are no longer elevated. For these reasons, Los Alamos National Laboratory requests NMED waive its requirement to conduct a two-phase purge test at R-29 and summary report, due on December 21, 2013.

If you have any 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,

Jeff Mousseau, Associate Director  
 Environmental Programs  
 Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,

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

JM/PM/DM:sm

Attachment: Two hard copies with electronic files – R-29 field indicator parameters and filtered iron and manganese concentrations (LA-UR-13-28494)

Cy: (w/att.)  
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX  
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894  
Cheryl Rodriguez, DOE-NA-00-LA, MS A316  
Tim Goering, EP-ET, MS M992  
Steve Paris, EP-CAP, MS M992  
Wendy Staples, EP-REG, MS M992  
Public Reading Room (hard copy)  
RPF (electronic copy)

Cy: (w/o att.)  
Tom Skibitski, NMED-DOE-OB (date-stamped letter emailed)  
lasomailbox@nnsa.doe.gov  
Annette Russell, DOE-NA-00-LA (date-stamped letter emailed)  
David Rhodes, DOE-NA-00-LA (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Danny Katzman, EP-ET (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Stephani Swickley, EP-CAP (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Tori George, EP-REG (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Craig Douglass, EP-CAP (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Dave McInroy, EP-CAP (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Dan Cox, ADEP (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Jeff Mousseau, ADEP (date-stamped letter emailed)