



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

ERID-523047



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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Environmental Health Division

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

EP2013-5143

July 16, 2013

Peter Maggiore
Assistant Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
3747 West Jemez Rd, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Jeffrey D. Mousseau
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: EXTENSION REQUEST
TO SUBMIT THE DRILLING WORK PLANS FOR
R-54 AND R-55i REPLACEMENT WELLS
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890018
HWB-LANL-08-001**

Dear Messrs. Maggiore and Mousseau:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Request for Extension to Submit the Drilling Work Plans for R-54 and R-55i Replacement Wells* (Work Plans) dated June 27, 2013 and referenced by EP2013-0131.

The Permittees submitted a report summarizing the results of attempted rehabilitation and testing of well R-54 (*Evaluation to Determine the Cause of Reducing Conditions Observed in Regional Aquifer Monitoring Wells R-54 and R-61* (Evaluation) dated April 11, 2013 and referenced by EP2013-0068) that provided evidence that the well was not capable of producing representative data due to the introduction of hammer oil during drilling. Based on the information provided in the Evaluation, NMED subsequently

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Messrs. Maggiore and Mousseau
July 16, 2013
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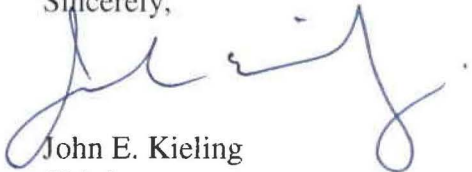
directed the Permittees, in a letter dated May 28, 2013, to submit the subject Work Plans to replace wells R-54 and R-55i. Well R-55i also displays characteristics indicating the presence of hammer oil.

The date for submittal of the Work Plans for the replacement of wells R-54 and R-55i has been changed from July 15, 2013 to **December 15, 2013**, as requested.

NMED is concerned over delays that affect the progress of groundwater characterization and monitoring; however, NMED is aware of the current uncertainties associated with the allocation of DOE resources to LANS to fund groundwater monitoring and cleanup at the Laboratory. Based on the chemical analytical data acquired to date, the water chemistry has been altered in wells R-54 and R-55i. Recent rehabilitation efforts conducted at similarly affected well R-61 were not successful; therefore, it does not appear likely that the wells will be adequate to serve as part of the Technical Area 54 monitoring well network. Regardless, the request has been automatically granted because NMED did not respond in writing within ten business days as specified in Consent Order Section III.J.2.

Please contact Dave Cobrain at (505) 476-6055 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

- cc: T. Blaine, NMED EHD
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
B. Wear, NMED HWB
M. Dale, NMED HWB
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S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
S. Paris, EP-CAP, MS A992
C. Rodriguez, DOE-LASO, MS A316
H. Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316

File: Reading and LANL 2013 –GroundwaterTA-54, R-54 and R-55i

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