



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor
JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RYAN FLYNN
Cabinet Secretary
BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 19, 2015

Christine Gelles, Acting Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Field Office
3747 West Jemez Rd, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael T. Brandt, Associate Director
Environment, Safety, and Health
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545



**RE: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATION
DRILLING WORK PLAN FOR REPLACEMENT REGIONAL AQUIFER WELL
R-54r
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-MISC-GW**

Dear Ms. Gelles and Mr. Brandt:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Drilling Work Plan for Replacement Regional Aquifer Well R-54r* (Plan) dated March 11, 2015, referenced by EP2015-0039, and received on March 11, 2015.

NMED has reviewed the Plan, and hereby issues this Approval with the following modification.

The Permittees propose to drill the replacement well R-54r approximately 50 feet away from the impacted well R-54. However, NMED is concerned that 50 feet may not be an

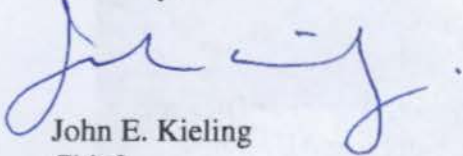
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adequate distance to avoid capturing impacted groundwater present at R-54 Screen 1. Therefore, the Permittees must drill R-54r at least 300 feet upgradient or near upgradient from well R-54. If such location is not attainable due to surface archeology, topography, or other factors, the Permittees must discuss the proposed location of R-54r with NMED before commencing drilling.

Well R-54r must be completed no later than **September 30, 2016**, as proposed in the Plan. The Permittees must submit the Fact Sheet for the well no later than **October 30, 2016**, and the Well Completion Report no later than **February 27, 2017**.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jerzy Kulis of my staff at (505) 476-6039.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
B. Wear, NMED HWB
M. Dale, NMED HWB
P. Bustamante, NMED GWQB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
R. Martinez, San Ildefonso Pueblo
D. Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo
S. Paris, ADEP-ER Program, MS M992
H. Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
W. Woodworth, DOE-LASO, MS A316

File: Reading and LANL 2015, Well R-54r