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**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

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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 PERCHED AQUIFER WELL
R-55ir
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 Perched Aquifer Well R-55ir* (Plan) dated March 11, 2015, referenced by EP2015-0040, 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-55ir approximately 50 feet away from the impacted well R-55i. However, NMED is concerned that 50 feet may not be an adequate distance to avoid capturing impacted groundwater present at R-55i. Therefore,

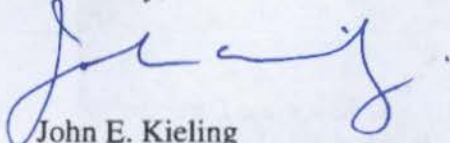
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the Permittees must drill R-55ir at least 300 feet upgradient or near upgradient from well R-55i. If such location is not attainable due to surface archeology, topography, or other factors, the Permittees must discuss the proposed location of R-55ir with NMED before commencing drilling.

Well R-55ir 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
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File: Reading and LANL 2015, Well R-55ir