



**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**



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Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 29, 2015

Christine Gelles
Acting Manager
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Field Office
3747 West Jemez Rd, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

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

**RE: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATION
PERIODIC MONITORING REPORT FOR WHITE ROCK CANYON
GENERAL SURVEILLANCE MONITORING GROUP, SEPTEMBER 29-
OCTOBER 30, 2014
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-15-006**

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 *Periodic Monitoring Report for White Rock Canyon General Surveillance Monitoring Group, September 29-October 30, 2014* (Report) dated February, 2015, referenced by EP2015-0017, and received on March 2, 2015. NMED has reviewed the Report, and hereby issues this approval with the following modification.

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In the Permittee's Report, Table 4.2-2 illustrates that Base-Flow location "Pajarito at Rio Grande" is ephemeral and station "Frijoles at Rio Grande" is perennial. The Pajarito (Canyon) stream enters the Rio Grande at an estimated flow rate of 250 gallons per minute or 0.6 cubic feet per second, and based on sixty plus years of field observations, the stream entering the Rio Grande has never been dry; hence, the stream-type should be designated as perennial. In future reports, the designation must be changed from ephemeral to perennial.

Under normal climate conditions, the Frijoles Canyon stream does enter the Rio Grande; however, during the past 15 years, field observations have shown that the lower reach near the Rio Grande does at times cease to flow. For example, on September 29, 2010, field-documentation records show that the Frijoles at Rio Grande base-flow sampling station was dry and samples were not collected. The stream-type designation for Frijoles at Rio Grande must be changed from perennial to ephemeral in future reports.

Please contact Michael Dale at (505) 476-3078 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

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File: Reading and LANL 2015, PMR White Rock Canyon Sept 29-30, 2014

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