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Cabinet Secretary
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Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 15, 2015

Christine Gelles
Acting Manager
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, Health
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545



RE: RESPONSE
NOTIFICATION OF REGIONAL WELL R-56 SCREEN 2 PACKER FAILURE,
PROPOSED REMEDY, AND DEVIATION FROM THE INTERIM FACILITY-
WIDE GROUNDWATER MONITORING PLAN
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 *Notification of Regional Well R-56 Screen 2 Packer Failure, Proposed Remedy, and Deviation from the Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan* (Notification) dated June 11, 2015, referenced by ADESH-15-088, and received on June 11, 2015. NMED has reviewed the Notification, and hereby issues this response with the following specific requirements.

The remedy proposed by the Permittees requests that R-56 screen 2 be allowed to recover naturally from cross-flow by allowing sufficient time for lateral groundwater flow to flush out the well casing and surrounding area and to resume sampling both R-56 screens during the first quarter Monitoring Year (MY2016), October – December 2015. Based on this request, and

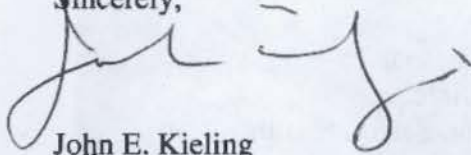
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without additional information, NMED can only assume that by October 1, 2015, the beginning of first quarter MY 2016, the rate and volume of groundwater flow across screen 2 would be adequate to completely flush the screened interval.

The Permittees did not provide the estimated flow rate and volumes of cross-flow needed to completely flush the well screen and surrounding area, and therefore, NMED cannot approve the Permittee's proposed remedy. Provide NMED the estimated flow rate, estimated volumes, and method calculations employed to determine that a six to eight month time period would be sufficient for complete flushing of the R-56 screen 2 interval. Provide NMED the required information in writing no later than **July 28, 2015**.

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

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
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File: Reading and LANL 2015, R-56 packer failure