



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.env.nm.gov**



RYAN FLYNN  
Cabinet Secretary  
BUTCH TONGATE  
Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

February 15, 2016

Doug Hintze  
Manager  
Environmental Management  
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: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATIONS  
SEMIANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR CORRECTIVE MEASURES  
EVALUATION/CORRECTIVE MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION FOR  
CONSOLIDATED UNIT 16-021(c)-99  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID#NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-15-051**

Dear Messrs. Hintze and 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 *Semiannual Progress Report for Corrective Measures Evaluation /Corrective Measures Implementation for Consolidated Unit 16-021(c)-99* (Report) dated October 2015 and referenced by EP2015-0182. The Report was received on October 29, 2015. NMED has reviewed the Report and hereby issues this approval with the following modifications.

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**1. Section 6.1.3, Surface CMI Activities, page 6, first bullet:**

**Permittees' Comment:** "Submit a letter to NMED outlining proposed actions for closure of the 260 surface CMI, and recommend discontinuation of the Consolidated Unit 16-021(c)-99 CME/CMI semiannual progress reports."

**NMED Comment:** In addition to the Permittees' proposal to submit correspondence to NMED outlining actions pertinent to the closure of the 260 surface CMI, the Permittees must submit, concurrently, an evaluation report describing all current and unresolved issues relevant to the CMI such as removal and/or reclamation of the Cañon de Valle pilot permeable reactive barrier (PRB) including the associated alluvial-aquifer capture wall; the adequacy of the alluvial groundwater monitoring well network; and potential for use of the carbon-filtration treatment systems at Burning Ground, SWSC, and Martin springs. The required evaluation report must include a proposal to submit a work plan describing the scope, methods, and procedures to address all remaining CMI issues. The evaluation report must contain a proposed submittal date for the required work plan.

The Permittees may decrease the reporting period for the Consolidated Unit 16-021(c)-99 CME/CMI from semiannual to annual. The annual progress report must be submitted to NMED no later than November 30, 2016 and every subsequent year by November 30.

**2. Section 7.0, Recommendations, page 7, fourth and fifth bullets:**

**Permittees' Comments:** "Based on the Laboratory's discussions with NMED-HWB on April 15, 2015 and on July 7, 2015, providing semiannual progress reports is no longer necessary. The Laboratory therefore requests approval from NMED to discontinue submitting semiannual progress reports for the CME/CMI for Consolidated Unit 16-021(c)-99. Instead, as discussed with NMED, these updates will be incorporated into a report that will tie in to closeout and monitoring activities associated with the surface CMI as described below."

"The Laboratory requests approval to close out the surface CMI by performing the following activities, as discussed during the July 7, 2015, technical meeting with NMED-HWB: (1) remove the PRB located in Cañon de Valle; (2) evaluate adequacy of the existing alluvial groundwater monitoring network and install additional alluvial wells, if necessary, for monitoring the downgradient concentrations of RDX from spring discharges; and (3) evaluate and propose actions for SWSC, Burning Ground, and Martin Springs. The specific recommendations for the surface CMI will include an approach and schedule for reporting."

**NMED Comment:** The Permittees' recommendations above are relevant to the NMED requirements as stated in comment #1. To restate, the Permittees may decrease the reporting period for the Consolidated Unit 16-021(c)-99 CME/CMI from semiannual to annual and must submit an evaluation report to NMED detailing current unresolved

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issues related to the Consolidated Unit 16-021(c)-99 (surface) CMI that includes recommendations to address such issues.

The Permittees must submit the evaluation report no later than **September 30, 2016**. Also, the Permittees must submit the annual progress report no later than **November 30, 2016**.

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  
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
B. Wear, NMED HWB  
M. Dale, NMED HWB  
J. Hogan, NMED SWQB  
M. Hunter, NMED GWQB  
S. Lucas Kamat, NMED DOE OB  
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894  
L. King, EPA 6PD-N  
R. Martinez, San Ildefonso Pueblo  
D. Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo  
C. Rodriguez, DOE-EM-LA, MS A316  
J. Buckley, ENV-CP, MS K490  
S. Swickley, ADEP ER, MS M992

File: Reading and LANL 2016, TA-16, LANL-15-051

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