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CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 4, 2017

Doug Hintze
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Environmental Management
Los Alamos Field Office
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Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael T. Brandt
Associate Director
Environment, Safety, Health
Los Alamos National Laboratory
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Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL
GROUNDWATER BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION REPORT, REVISION 5
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-16-053**

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 *Groundwater Background Investigation Report, Revision 5* (Report) dated October, 2016 and referenced by EP2016-0116. The Report was received on October 27, 2016. NMED approves the Report with the following comment.

COMMENT:

Tables 3.4-2, 4.2-1, and 4.2-2, pages 43, 47-48, and 49-50, respectively -

A discrepancy is noted between the referenced tables with respect to the field-prep filtration of samples collected and analyzed for gross alpha, beta, and tritium. Specifically, Table 3.4-2 illustrates that samples collected for gross alpha, beta, and tritium analyses were nonfiltered; however, Tables 4.2-1 and 4.2-2 show that samples were filtered (F); hence, the discrepancy. The discrepancy is likely a typographical error because all gross alpha and beta and tritium

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results included in the Report were derived from the collection of non-filtered samples as specified in the Permittee's Interim Facility Groundwater Monitoring Plans, monitoring years 2009 through 2015 (e.g., LA-UR-10-1771/EP2010-0231).

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

Sincerely,



John E. Kielling
Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
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File: Reading and LANL 2017, GBIR Rev 5

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