



**NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**



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**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

January 5, 2017

Doug Hintze, Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Environmental Management  
Los Alamos Field Office  
3747 West Jemez Road, MS-M984  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael T. Brandt, Associate Director  
Environmental Remediation Program  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, MS-K491  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: REVIEW  
INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE REPORT OF EROSION  
CONTROLS ASSOCIATED WITH SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT  
UNIT 16-003(O) WITHIN FISHLADDER CANYON  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-16-060**

Dear Messrs. Hintze and Brandt:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) *Inspection and Maintenance of Erosion Controls Associated with Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU)16-003(o) within Fishladder Canyon* (Report) dated and received December 13, 2016, and referenced by ADEM-16-5355/LA-UR-16-29239.

The Permittees are required to conduct annual inspection of the erosion controls installed in the drainages and slopes of Fishladder Canyon (see *Approval with Modifications for the Phase II Investigation Report for TA-16-340, Revision 1*, February 9, 2009). SWMU 16-003(o) is included on the Permittees' National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and storm water controls inspections are conducted under the Individual Permit (IP).

The Permittees report that seven inspections were conducted in 2016, six of which were required due

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to separate 30-minute storm events. The Permittees report that the erosional controls continue to be stable, and do not require any repairs at this time.

The Permittees also state that *“Given the well-documented stability of the site and maintenance of controls at SWMU 16-003(o), Los Alamos National Security, LLC, requests that hereafter inspection reports be submitted once every 2 yr and no later than December 31 of the reporting year. Inspection reports will detail activities for the previous 2-yr monitoring period.”*

NMED has completed its review of the 2016 Report, and hereby issues this approval with the following comments:

- NMED notes that the Permittees have complied with previous direction to include more descriptive text describing the conditions of the erosional controls, and their relative location within the image (e.g., *middle of photo*) for each figure. Please continue to include these descriptions in future monitoring reports to facilitate the review process.
- NMED notes that information on individual inspections have not been included in this Report. For example, in the 2015 Report, the Permittees provided the following information:

*“Controls at SWMU 16-003(o) were inspected six times during 2015, as described below.*

- 1. An inspection was completed on July 9, 2015, for the rain events occurring on June 26 and July 6, 2015, with no findings or maintenance items related to SWMU 16-003(o).*
- 2. A second rain event inspection was completed on July 27, 2015, for rain events occurring on July 12 and July 20, 2015. Inspection findings recommended replacing the straw wattle (-0023) and removing leaf litter from rock check dam (-0025). On August 11, 2015, a new wattle (-0030) was installed directly up gradient of the existing wattle (-0023), and leaf litter was removed from rock check dam (-0025). Wattle (-0023) was retired and replaced with wattle (-0030), shown in Figure 1.*
- 3. A third rain event inspection was completed on August 10, 2015, for the rain events occurring on July 29, July 31, August 1, and August 2, 2015. Inspection findings recommended adding additional rock to rock check dam (-0024). On August 25, 2015, additional rock was added to check dam (-0024).*
- 4. A fourth rain event inspection was completed on August 28, 2015, for the event occurring on August 17, 2015, with no findings or maintenance items.*
- 5. A TAL inspection was completed on September 24, 2015, with no findings or maintenance items.*
- 6. The IP annual erosion evaluation was completed on October 28, 2015. Inspection findings recommended replacing straw wattle (-0028); a follow-up inspection was completed on November 4, 2015, and determined the area below wattle (-0028) is stable.*

This information is important to the expedited review of the Report, but was not included in this Report. Please include this information regarding individual inspections in future reports

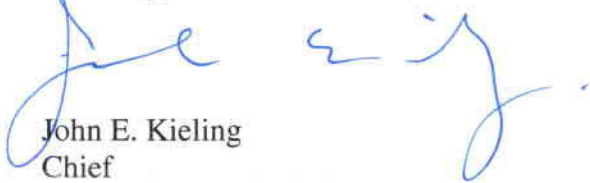
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The Permittees must continue to conduct annual inspection of the erosional controls required by the Approval with Modification letter issued February 9, 2009, but may submit reports biennially. The next biennial inspection report documenting the proof of maintenance of erosion controls for 2017 and 2018 must be submitted to NMED no later than **December 31, 2018**.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Siona Briley at (505)-476-6049.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
S. Briley, NMED HWB  
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S. Martinez, OIO-DO (E-File)

File: 2017 Reading and LANL, SWMU 16-003(o) Inspection Report  
LANL-16-060

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