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**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

February 20, 2017

Doug Hintze, Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
EM-Los Alamos Field Office, DOE  
3747 West Jemez Rd, MS A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

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

**RE: APPROVAL EXTENSION REQUEST  
FOR SUBMITTAL OF FINAL CORRECTIVE MEASURES EVALUATION  
REPORT FOR RDX, TECHNICAL AREA 16  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-MISC**

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 L.L.C.'s (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) *Request to Remove the Final Corrective Measures Evaluation Report for RDX, Technical Area 16 from the Appendix B Milestones and Targets Table in 2016 Consent Order* (Request), dated January 18, 2017 and referenced by ADEM-17-0011. The Request proposes to remove the final corrective measure evaluation (CME) report for RDX at Technical Area (TA) 16 from Appendix B (Milestones and Targets Table) of the 2016 Consent Order. The current submittal date for the final CME Report for RDX is September 30, 2017.

NMED had previously (April 2008 Notice of Disapproval for 2007 *Corrective Measures Evaluation Report, Intermediate and Regional groundwater, Consolidated Unit 16-021(c)-99*) directed the Permittees to conduct additional investigations to assess the extent of groundwater contamination in perched-intermediate groundwater and in the regional aquifer. Since then, the Permittees have installed several monitoring wells in the perched-intermediate and regional groundwater and have concluded that the data collected so far indicate that characterization of nature and extent of RDX contamination in the perched-intermediate and regional groundwater is

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incomplete. The data suggests the potential presence of an additional source of high explosives contamination at TA-9 that could be contributing to groundwater contamination in the area.

The Permittees are in the process of installing a new regional aquifer well R-68, north of Cañon de Valle and anticipate that an additional regional aquifer well R-69 may be required to fill the existing data gaps. In addition, the Permittees would like to acquire data from ongoing tracer studies, aquifer tests, and bench scale testing to evaluate potential remedial alternatives for the final CME. These data will not be available in time to submit the CME report that is due by September 30, 2017. The Permittees propose to conduct additional characterization to evaluate the feasibility of remedial alternatives for the final CME report.

The Permittees have demonstrated that a good cause exists for the requested extension. NMED hereby grants the extension for submittal of the final CME report for RDX, TA-16 in accordance with Section XXVIII of the 2016 Consent Order. The new date for the submission of final CME report will be established using the Annual Planning Process described in Section VIII.C of the 2016 Consent Order.

As proposed in the Request, the Permittees must submit a report summarizing hydrology and geochemistry data from regional well R-68 by September 30, 2017. The summary report must discuss whether regional well R-69 will be required for additional characterization of RDX contamination prior to submittal of the final RDX CME report.

Please contact Neelam Dhawan at (505) 476-6042 should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
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