



State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 8, 2017

Doug Hintze, Manager
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Los Alamos, NM 87544

Bruce Robinson, Program Director
Environmental Remediation Program
Los Alamos National Laboratory
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**RE: APPROVAL
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR LOS
ALAMOS CANYON BORROW PIT
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-17-016**

Dear Messrs. Hintze and Robinson

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) *Solid Waste Management Unit Assessment Report for the Los Alamos Canyon Borrow Pit* (SAR) dated and received April 7, 2017 (referenced by EP2017-0046/LA-UR-17-22475).

The Permittees estimated that approximately 16,400 cubic yards of sediments were placed into the Los Alamos Canyon Borrow Pit between 2011 and 2014. The Permittees submitted the *2013 Excavation of the Los Alamos Canyon Low-Head Weir* (2013 Excavation Report) on December 19, 2013, that describes the placement of sediments in the Borrow Pit. NMED issued a Disapproval of the 2013 Excavation Report on March 3, 2015 requiring a revision of the 2013 Excavation Report.

During a meeting between NMED and the Permittees on June 21, 2016, it was agreed that a revision to the 2013 Excavation Report was not required. Instead of the revised Report, the

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Messrs. Hintze and Robinson

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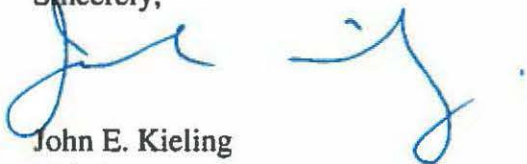
Permittees were directed to submit a Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) Assessment Work Plan. This direction was based on the routine emplacement of potentially contaminated sediments in the Borrow Pit. The 2016 Compliance Order on Consent (Consent Order) defines a SWMU to “means any discernable unit at which solid waste has been placed at any time and from which the Department determines there may be a risk of a release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents, irrespective of whether the unit was intended for the management of solid or hazardous waste. Such units include any area at the Facility at which solid wastes have been routinely and systematically released; they do not include one-time spills”.

The *SWMU Assessment Report Work Plan for the Los Alamos Canyon Borrow Pit Revision 1* (Work Plan) was received by NMED on November 22, 2016, and was subsequently approved on December 22, 2016. The purpose of this SAR was to determine if hazardous waste constituents were present in the Borrow Pit, as well as the potential for release, of hazardous constituents to the environment.

The Work Plan was implemented in December 2016 and the SAR was submitted to NMED. Based on the information provided in the SAR, the site does not pose an unacceptable risk under the residential scenario and no further action are required at this time. The site does not need to be added to Appendix K of the Permit. However, in the future, if new information becomes available, NMED may require additional investigation. NMED has reviewed this SAR in accordance with requirements set forth in Section X.C of the Consent Order, and hereby issues this approval.

Please contact Siona Briley of my staff, at (505) 476-6049, should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
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File: 2017 LANL, SAR for the Los Alamos Canyon Borrow Pit, April 2017
HWB-LANL-17-016.

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