Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY
EST. 1943

Associate Directorate for Environmental Management
P.O. Box 1663, MS M992
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 606-2337

Environmental Management
1900 Diamond Drive, MS M984
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
(505) 665-5658/FAX (505) 606-2132

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John Kieling, Bureau Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

Subject: Supplemental Investigation Report for Lower Sandia Canyon Aggregate Area

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Enclosed please find two hard copies with electronic files of the Supplemental Investigation Report for Lower Sandia Canyon Aggregate Area. Based on the data evaluation guidelines Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) used in 2011, when the original investigation report was prepared, the Laboratory concluded that the extent of contamination was not defined for 17 solid waste management units (SWMUs) and areas of concern (AOCs) in the Lower Sandia Canyon Aggregate Area. A total of 3 other SWMUs and AOCs were recommended for corrective action complete, and 7 SWMUs and 1 AOC were recommended for delayed investigation because they are associated with active facilities.

After the approval of the investigation report, the New Mexico Environment (NMED) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) entered into a Framework Agreement for the realignment of environmental priorities at the Laboratory. Under the Framework Agreement, NMED and DOE agreed to review characterization efforts undertaken to date pursuant to the Compliance Order on Consent to identify those sites where the nature and extent of contamination have been adequately characterized.

Pursuant to the Framework Agreement, the Laboratory reviewed its data evaluation process with respect to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance and the Framework Agreement principles and concluded that the process could be revised to complete site characterization more efficiently, while providing full protection of human health and the environment. Specifically, the process for evaluating data to define extent of contamination was revised to provide a greater emphasis on risk/dose reduction, consistent with EPA guidance. This revised process includes (1) initially identifying chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) to focus efforts on the constituents of most concern; (2) screening COPCs against soil screening levels and screening action levels

during determination of extent to focus efforts on characterizing contamination potentially posing a risk/dose and requiring corrective action; and (3) performing screening-level risk/dose evaluations on all sites, even if extent is not defined, to incorporate risk/dose reduction into recommendations for further actions.

The 2011 investigation data for the 17 sites were reevaluated using this revised process, and the results are presented in the attached supplemental investigation report.

If you have any questions, please contact Kent Rich at (505) 665-4272 (krich@lanl.gov) or Ramoncita Massey at (505) 665-7771 (ramoncita.massey@em.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

Bruce Robinson, Program Director
Environmental Remediation Program
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,

David S. Rhodes, Director
Office of Quality and Regulatory Compliance
Los Alamos Environmental Management
Field Office

BR/DH/KR:sm

Enclosures: Two hard copies with electronic files – Supplemental Investigation Report for Lower Sandia Canyon Aggregate Area (EP2017-0086)

Cy: (w/enc.)
Ramoncita Massey, DOE-EM-LA
Kent Rich, ADEM ER Program

Cy: (w/electronic enc.)
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
emla.docs@em.doe.gov
Public Reading Room (EPRR)
ADESH Records
PRS Database

Cy: (w/o enc./date-stamped letter emailed)
lasomailbox@nnsa.doe.gov
Peter Maggiore, DOE-NA-LA
Kimberly Davis Lebak, DOE-NA-LA
David Rhodes, DOE-EM-LA
Bruce Robinson, ADEM ER Program
Randy Erickson, ADEM
Jocelyn Buckley, ADESH-EPC-CP
Mike Saladen, ADESH-EPC-CP
John Bretzke, ADESH-EPC-DO
Michael Brandt, ADESH
William Mairson, PADOPS
Craig Leasure, PADOPS