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Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316
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Date: **MAR 17 2011**
Refer To: EP2011-0121

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

Subject: Status of Perched-Intermediate Well SCI-4

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

This letter serves as confirmation and documentation of discussions among Los Alamos National Security (LANS) LLC, the U.S. Department of Energy–Los Alamos Site Office, and the New Mexico Environment Department–Hazardous Waste Bureau regarding our intended submittal schedule for the work plan for perched-intermediate well SCI-4. The following paragraph from the R-62 drilling work plan links the installation of SCI-4 with observations made during the drilling of R-62:

Regional aquifer well R-62 will be located on a narrow ridge that separates Sandia and Mortandad Canyons at the east end of Sigma Mesa and on the same drill pad as proposed perched-intermediate well SCI-4 (Figure 1). Well R-62 is being installed to reduce uncertainty about the upgradient extent of chromium contamination in the area west-northwest of wells R-42 and R-28. Data collected during R-62 drilling will be used to assess the presence or absence of perched groundwater, which will determine the need for perched-intermediate well SCI-4.

As the above paragraph indicates, we must wait until R-62 is completed before we either submit a work plan for drilling well SCI-4 or a letter stating the well is not needed. Therefore, it is LANS's intent to submit the appropriate correspondence regarding SCI-4 within 30 days of completion of well R-62. LANS will work closely with your staff on the decision regarding well SCI-4.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Veenis at (505) 667-0013 (veenis@lanl.gov) or Hai Shen at (505) 665-5046 (hshen@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



Michael J. Graham, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory



George J. Rael, Manager
Environmental Projects Office
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MG/GR/CD/SV:sm

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