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National Nuclear Security Administration
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Date: **MAR 17 2011**
Refer To: EP2011-0123

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

Subject: Request for Extension for Completion of Well R-61

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The purpose of this letter is to request an extension to the date for completing well R-61. Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) submitted the Drilling Work Plan for Well R-61 to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on October 15, 2010. The work plan proposed an NMED completion date of March 30, 2011. This completion date was approved by NMED in its November 4, 2010, letter. This date would allow three quarters of sampling to be completed and one quarter for data from the third quarter to be returned and incorporated in the Sandia Canyon Phase II investigation report, due to NMED on April 30, 2012.

The installation of well R-61 is currently behind schedule because procurement was delayed by Continuing Resolution, which did not authorize funding for fiscal year 2011 second quarter projects until January 2011. The Laboratory is currently drilling well R-61 and has reached a depth of 520 ft. Additionally, the Laboratory has attempted to obtain a second drilling crew for 24-hour operations to lessen the impact of the schedule delay caused by the Continuing Resolution, but as of this date, no additional crews are available. Therefore, the Laboratory does not anticipate having this well complete until after the March 30, 2011, due date, and the Laboratory is requesting an extension for the completion of well R-61 until April 30, 2011.

The Laboratory recognizes the importance of completing the characterization of groundwater in Sandia Canyon and the completion of the Phase II investigation report. This 30-day delay in completion of well R-61 **will not** impact the laboratory's ability to collect and analyze the three quarters of sampling data before the Laboratory submits the Phase II report on the due date of April 30, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact Ted Ball at (505) 665-3996 (tedball@lanl.gov) or Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lwoodworth@doeal.gov)

Sincerely,


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

Sincerely,


George J. Rael, Manager
Environmental Projects Office
Los Alamos Site Office

MG/GR/CD/TB:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamped letter emailed)
Woody Woodworth, DOE-LASO, MS A316 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Ted Ball, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Craig Douglass, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
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