



IRM-RMMSO Official Correspondence Form

Name:	U1100044	
Title:	Notice of Approval Work Plan to Determine Background Concentrations in Unit 4 of the Bandelier Tuff LANL EPA ID NM0890010515 HWB-LANL-10-097	
Date Received:	1/18/2011	
Addressee Name:	M. Graham, ADEP	
Originator:	J. Bearzi, NMED	
Action Item Description:		
Action Due Date:		
Responsible for Action:	Search 	
Responsible Office:		
Distribution:	Michael J. Graham Isaac E. RichardsonIII Michael B. Mallory David J. McInroy Elizabeth W. English Kristine Smeltz Tina M. Sandoval Scottv Jones	Michael R. Anastasio Richard A. Marquez Deborah K. Wolite James C. Cantwell Phoebe K. Suina Victoria A. George Anthony R. Grieggs



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



DAVE MARTIN
Cabinet Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 12, 2011

George J. Rael, Assistant Manager
Environmental Projects Office
Department of Energy / National
Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, LLC
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: NOTICE OF APPROVAL
WORK PLAN TO DETERMINE BACKGROUND CONCENTRATIONS
IN UNIT 4 OF THE BANDELIER TUFF
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-10-097**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

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) *Work Plan for Determining Background Concentrations of Inorganic Chemicals in Unit 4 of the Bandelier Tuff*, dated December 2010 and referenced by LA-UR-10-8111/EP2010-0529. NMED hereby issues this notice of approval with following comments.

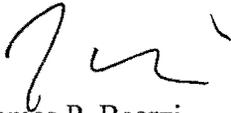
1. The title of the document indicates that the work plan is to determine background concentrations of inorganic chemicals in unit 4 of the Bandelier tuff. However, the work plan indicates that background values will be developed for both inorganic chemicals and naturally-occurring radionuclides.

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2. Various sample preparation methods and techniques are mentioned in the 1998 report and proposed work plan, e.g., 3050A, 3050B, grinding, HF digestion. For solid matrices in particular, changes in the types of acid used during digestion may have an impact on the amount of leaching of the metals from the sample. For example, a stronger acid or combination of acids may induce greater leaching, and thus result in higher reported concentrations. Care should be taken to ensure that the sample preparation techniques used to collect the proposed background data are consistent with laboratory sample preparation methods used during site investigations at the Facility.

The Permittees must submit the background study report for unit 4 of the Bandelier tuff by September 11, 2011. Please contact Neelam Dhawan of my staff at (505) 476-6042 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
S. Schulman, DOE-LASO, MS A316
S. Fuller, EP-CAP, MS M992

File: LANL, Work Plan to Determine Background for Qbt 4, 2011

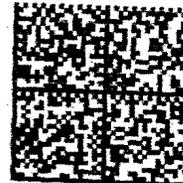
NAME Doreen Montoya
Z# 086365
DATE 1-18-11

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State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2906 Rouse Park Drive East-Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



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Michael J. Graham, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, LLC
P.O. Box 1663, MS ~~M991~~
Los Alamos, NM 87545

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