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National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316
Environmental Restoration Program
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Date: **JAN 04 2013**
Refer To: EP2012-0307

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

Jerry Schoeppner, Bureau Chief
Groundwater Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building, Room N2261
1190 St. Francis Dr.
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502



Subject: Notice of the Identification of Pit 39 as a Newly Identified Area of Concern

Dear Messrs. Kieling and Schoeppner:

The U.S. Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (DOE/LANS) evaluated past waste disposal records in response to correspondence dated October 1, 2012, and December 5, 2012, from the New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau regarding the use of potable water for worker safety reasons at Pit 38 in Technical Area 54 (TA-54), Material Disposal Area G, at Los Alamos National Laboratory. As described in the December 20, 2012, Solid Waste Assessment Report for the Pit 38 Newly Identified Area of Concern, DOE/LANS reviewed waste characterization and disposal records at TA-54, Area G, to determine if any mixed wastes that would be subject to regulation under the Compliance Order on Consent (the Consent Order) may have been disposed of in Pit 38. During this review, DOE/LANS also identified two potentially mixed low-level waste packages from the same waste stream as those disposed of in Pit 38 that were disposed of in Pit 39 in 1997. Specifically, one 55-gal. drum of the waste generated during the excavation of a water pump at TA-50 that was potentially characteristically hazardous for mercury and/or chromium was disposed of in Pit 39. Also, a secondary containment pallet that may have absorbed a waste that was characteristically hazardous for lead was disposed of in Pit 39.

Based on this finding, DOE/LANS have conservatively identified Pit 39 as an area of concern, as defined in Section III.A of the Consent Order, and will therefore submit a solid waste management unit assessment report for Pit 39 in accordance with Section V.C within 90 days of this notification.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Roberts at (505) 665-0006 (kroberts@lanl.gov) or Ed Worth at (505) 606-0398 (edwin.worth@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,



Jeff Mousseau, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



Peter Maggiore, Assistant Manager
Environmental Projects Office
Los Alamos Site Office

JM/PM/TG:sm

Cy: (w/att.)

Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB (date-stamped letter emailed)
Jennifer Fullam, NMED-WQB (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Roberto Torres, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Darlene Rodriguez, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Ed Worth, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
David Rhodes, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Alison Dorries, ENV-DO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Michael Saladen, ENV-RCRA (date-stamped letter emailed)
Robert Beers, ENV-RCRA (date-stamped letter emailed)
Tori George, EP-REG (date-stamped letter emailed)
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Derek Faulk, EP-CAP (date-stamped letter emailed)
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Wendy Staples, EP-BPS (date-stamped letter emailed)
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