Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY
EST. 1943

Environmental Programs
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 606-2337FAX (505) 665-1812

National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316
Environmental Restoration Program
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
(505) 667-4255/FAX (505) 606-2132

Date: August 29, 2008
Refer To: EP2008-0443

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



Subject: Review of July 2008 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Water Stewardship Project (LWSP) met on August 14, 2008, to review new groundwater data received in July 2008. At that time, several groundwater samples were identified with contaminant concentrations above the New Mexico or federal water quality standards. This review incorporates data received by LANL during July 2008; reporting and data loading are again up to date with this letter.

The LWSP program manager notified the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous Waste Bureau about these findings by telephone on August 15, 2008, and followed up with an email on the same day. The eight instances of a contaminant above a standard for the first time (based on samples collected since June 14, 2007) are tabulated in the attached report. Samples collected at these locations before June 14, 2007, also contained the same contaminants at concentrations above a standard, with the following six exceptions:

- Total phosphate as phosphorus was detected at 8.86 mg/L in a filtered sample collected at Sandia Canyon intermediate well R-12; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tap water screening level is 0.73 mg/L.

- Total phosphate as phosphorus was detected at 14.5 mg/L in a filtered sample collected at Mortandad Canyon regional well Test Well 8; the EPA tap water screening level is 0.73 mg/L.

- Total phosphate as phosphorus was detected at 16.7 mg/L and 15.1 mg/L, respectively, in filtered samples collected at Mortandad Canyon regional well R-16r; the EPA tap water screening level is 0.73 mg/L.

- Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate was detected at 59.1 µg/L in an unfiltered sample collected at Sandia Canyon regional well R-36; the EPA drinking water standard is 6 µg/L.

- Bromomethane was detected at 23.6 µg/L in an unfiltered sample collected at Sandia Canyon regional well R-36; the EPA tap water screening level is 8.661 µg/L.

This letter is our written submission that indicates in the accompanying report and tables the chemical constituents that meet the seven screening criteria laid out in the Compliance Order on Consent, modified May 13, 2008. The report identifies data collected since June 14, 2007, that meet these criteria.

If you have questions, please contact Ardyth Simmons at (505) 665-3935 (asimmons@lanl.gov) or David Gregory at (505) 667-5808 (dgregory@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

Susan G. Stiger, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,

David R. Gregory, Project Director
Environmental Operations
Los Alamos Site Office

SS/DG/PH/DR:sm

Enclosure: Report and accompanying tables: "Summary of New Los Alamos National Laboratory Groundwater Data Loaded in July 2008" (EP2008-0443)

Cy: (w/enc.)
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo
David Rogers, EP-LWSP, MS M992
RPF, MS M707 (with two CDs)
Public Reading Room, MS M992

Cy: (Letter and CD only)
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-OB, White Rock, NM
Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Ardyth Simmons, EP-LWSP, MS M992
Mei Ding, EES-6, MS J514
Florie Caporuscio, EES-6, MS J514
Kristine Smeltz, WES-DO, MS M992
Lorrie Bonds-Lopez, EP-LWSP, MS M992
EP-LWSP File, MS M992

Cy: (w/o enc.)
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM
Alison Bennett, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Susan G. Stiger, ADEP, MS M991
Alison M. Dorries, WES-DO, MS M992
Paul R. Huber, EP-LWSP, MS M992
IRM-RMMSO, MS A150 (date-stamped letter emailed)