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Date: September 26, 2008
Refer To: EP2008-0501

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 August 2008 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Water Stewardship Project (LWSP) met on September 11, 2008, to review new groundwater data received in August 2008. At that time, several groundwater samples were identified with contaminant concentrations above the New Mexico or federal water quality standards.

The LWSP program manager notified the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous Waste Bureau about these findings by telephone on September 11, 2008, and followed up with an email on the same day. The six 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. No samples collected at these locations before June 14, 2007, contained these contaminants at concentrations above a standard.

- Manganese was detected at 609 µg/L in a filtered sample collected at Pajarito Canyon alluvial well PCAO-7b2; the New Mexico groundwater standard is 200 µg/L.
- Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate was detected at 6 µg/L in an unfiltered sample collected at Pajarito Canyon regional aquifer well R-32; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standard is 6 µg/L.
- Ammonia as nitrogen was detected at 0.93 mg/L in a filtered sample collected at Pajarito Canyon alluvial well PCAO-5; the EPA tap water screening level is 0.208 mg/L.
- Iron was detected at 8600 µg/L in a filtered sample collected at Pajarito Canyon alluvial well PCAO-5; the New Mexico groundwater standard is 1000 µg/L.
- Manganese was detected at 6040 µg/L in a filtered sample collected at Pajarito Canyon alluvial well PCAO-5; the New Mexico groundwater standard is 200 µg/L.

- Manganese was detected at 402 µg/L in a filtered sample collected at Pajarito Canyon alluvial well PCAO-8; the New Mexico groundwater standard is 200 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 August 2008" (EP2008-0501)

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