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FEB 2009
NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau

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: February 26, 2009
Refer To: EP2009-0128

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: Request for Extension of Due Date for Pajarito Canyon Investigation Report, Revision 1

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) requests an extension on the due date for the revision to the Pajarito Canyon investigation report. The Notice of Disapproval (NOD) on the Pajarito Canyon Investigation Report from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), dated November 21, 2008, required that the revised report be submitted by December 22, 2008. The Laboratory responded on December 12, 2008, with a request for extension for the revision to May 29, 2009, and the NMED subsequently responded on December 29, 2008, with an approval of the request.

Since that time, the Laboratory has had discussions with your staff to consider an additional extension of the revision to August 31, 2009. The request for extension is based on the Laboratory's desire to have the revised report include key new information that would be necessary to support NMED's requirements in Specific Comment #4 in the NOD, specifically to include "updated hydrogeologic cross sections reflecting currently available subsurface information." The Laboratory understands the importance of this requirement and is proposing that an August 31, 2009, submittal date for the revision would allow for incorporation of this key data that will derive from wells currently being installed in the Technical Area 54 area and the perched-intermediate well required by NMED in the Pajarito NOD to be installed at the R-17 location. The Laboratory also recognizes the importance of this report for advancing decisions on corrective measures projects at TA-54.

If you have any questions, please contact Danny Katzman at (505) 667-6333 (katzman@lanl.gov) or Suzy Schulman at (505) 606-1962 (sschulman@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

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

Sincerely,

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

MG/DG/PH/ME:sm

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