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Date: JAN 2 1 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0015

James 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 December 2010 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Members of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Programs staff met on January 12, 2011, to review new groundwater data received in December 2010. At that time, several groundwater samples were identified with contaminant concentrations above the New Mexico or federal water quality standards.

An Environmental Programs staff member notified the New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau about these findings by telephone on January 12, 2011, and followed up with an email on the same day.

The two 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. These instances are the following:

- Lead was found in an unfiltered sample in Mortandad Canyon regional aquifer well R-15 at 39.5 µg/L; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency drinking water system action level is 15 µg/L.
- Nitrate (plus nitrite as nitrogen) was found in a filtered sample from the 1412-ft regional aquifer screen of Pajarito Canyon well R-19 at 793 mg/L. The New Mexico Groundwater Standard is 10 mg/L. Usual nitrate measurements at this screen are near 0.35 mg/L; this high value is likely a field preservation error. The total dissolved solids measurement for the sample was 135 mg/L.

This letter is our written submission that meets notification requirements laid out in Section IV.A.3.g of the Compliance Order on Consent, modified on May 13, 2008. The required information for the chemical constituents that meet the seven screening criteria contained in that section is given in the accompanying report and tables.

If you have questions, please contact Steve Paris at (505) 606-0915 (smparis@lanl.gov) or Hai Shen at (505) 665-5046 (hshen@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

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

Sincerely,

George J. Rael, Manager
Environmental Projects Office
Los Alamos Site Office

MG/GR/DM/SP/DR:sm

Enclosure: Two hard copies with electronic files – Summary of New Los Alamos National Laboratory Groundwater Data Loaded in December 2010 (LA-UR-11-0291)

Cy: (w/enc.)
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