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AUG 2010
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: AUG 2 6 2010
Refer To: EP2010-0390

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

Subject: Response to the Approval for the Completion Report for Intermediate Aquifer Well CdV-37-1i

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) would like to take this opportunity to respond to the subject letter from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). In its review of the completion report for well CdV-37-1i, NMED staff identified a variation in the reported detection limit for high explosives in a borehole groundwater screening sample. The subject letter directs the Laboratory to make corrections to the report if it was a typographical error or to address the detection limit variation in the appropriate periodic monitoring report. The Laboratory has reviewed the analytical data and is confident the results are correctly reported. Additionally, since screening data are not presented in periodic monitoring reports, an explanation is offered below.

Typically, on low turbidity water samples from developed wells a volume of 770 mL of the water sample is used in the extraction for the analysis of high explosives at General Engineering Laboratory. Because of the high turbidity of these borehole samples, less than 770 mL of sample was used in the extraction of samples GW37-1(i)-09-13129 and GW37-1(i)-09-13130. For sample GW37-1(i)-09-13130, 77 mL of sample was used for the extraction, and for sample GW37-1(i)-09-13129, 7.7 ml of sample was extracted. Thus, the detection limit for sample GW37-1(i)-09-13129 is an order of magnitude higher than sample GW37-1(i)-09-13130.

If you have any questions, please contact Ted Ball at (505) 665-3996 (tedball@lanl.gov) or Tom Whitacre at (505) 665-5042 (twhitacre@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

Bruce Schappell, Executive Director
Environmental Programs – Recovery Act Projects
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,

for Everett Trollinger, Federal Project Director
Environmental Projects – ARRA
Los Alamos Site Office

MG/GR/TB/ME:sm

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