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Date: MAY 2 3 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0192

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

Subject: Extension Request for Submittal of Proposed Location for Well R-59 and Well Completion Date

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) request extensions to the May 31, 2011, due date for submitting a proposed location for new regional well R-59 and the August 31, 2011, completion date for R-59.

LANL and DOE proposed the current schedule for the R-59 location and completion in a November 12, 2010 letter (EP2010-0528) that the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approved on November 29, 2010 (HWB-LANL-MISC-GW). The November 12, 2010, letter noted that an evaluation of alternate locations for R-59 had been performed using water-level data from newly installed well R-60. The letter recommended that further evaluation of alternate locations for R-59 be performed using results from new vapor-monitoring wells being installed at that time. LANL, DOE, and NMED agreed to defer deciding on a location for well R-59 until two rounds of monitoring data from four new deep vapor-monitoring wells near Material Disposal Area (MDA) C could be collected and evaluated.

LANL and DOE have collected and evaluated the new vapor-monitoring data, along with additional groundwater level data from R-60. The results of these evaluations were discussed in a meeting with Messrs. David Cobrain, Michael Dale, and Jerzy Kulis of your staff on May 19, 2011. Based on these discussions, NMED recommended that a decision on the need and location of R-59 be deferred until after NMED has had the opportunity to review the results of the Phase III investigation for MDA C. The Phase III MDA C investigation report, due to NMED on June 30, 2011, will include the technical rationale for a potential monitoring network at MDA C consisting of vapor- and regional aquifer-monitoring wells. Therefore, LANL and DOE are requesting 3-month extensions, until August 31, 2011, to propose a location for well R-59 and November 30, 2011, to complete R-59, assuming that the Laboratory receives a timely review on the proposed location.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephani Swickley at (505) 606-1628 (sfuller@lanl.gov) or Cheryl Rodriguez at (505) 665-5330 (crodriguez2@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,

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Michael J. Graham, Associate Director
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Sincerely,

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Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamped letter emailed)
Cheryl Rodriguez, DOE-LASO, MS A316 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Stephani Swickley, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
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