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Date: AUG 18 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0221

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: Review of July 2011 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Members of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Programs staff met on August 11, 2011, to review new groundwater data received in July 2011. 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 email on August 11, 2011, and followed up with a phone call (voice message) on the same day.

The three 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:

- Acrolein was found at 1.95 µg/L in an unfiltered sample collected June 3, 2011, from Mortandad Canyon regional aquifer well R-1; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tap water screening level is 0.042 µg/L. Of the 27 samples analyzed for acrolein, this was the first time it was detected, the result is estimated, and the sample holding time was exceeded.
- Perchlorate was found at 6.54 µg/L in a filtered sample collected May 20, 2011, from the 1125-ft regional aquifer screen of Mortandad Canyon well R-61; the Compliance Order on Consent screening level is 4 µg/L.
- Dibenz(a,h)anthracene was found at 0.36 µg/L in an unfiltered sample collected May 20, 2011, from the 1125-ft regional aquifer screen of Mortandad Canyon well R-61; the EPA tap water screening level is 0.029 µg/L. The result was estimated, the compound was not found in the field duplicate, and the analytical calibration was outside method limits.

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 (hai.shen@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

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

Sincerely,

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

MG/GR/CD/SP/DR:sm

Enclosure: Two hard copies with electronic files – Summary of New Los Alamos National Laboratory Groundwater Data Loaded in July 2011 (LA-UR-11-3836)

Cy: (w/enc.)
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Cy: (w/o enc.)
Pete Padilla, Los Alamos County Utility Department, Los Alamos, NM
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
David Rogers, EP-ET, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
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