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Date: SEP 02 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0301

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: Proposed Exchange in the R-65 and R-66 Schedules

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The purpose of this letter is to request a change in the schedules for drilling regional groundwater monitoring wells R-65 and R-66. Currently, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has approved October 30, 2011, for the completion of well R-65 in its letter, "Approval with Modifications Force Majeure for the Los Conchas Wildfire" (EPA ID # NM0890010515). In this letter, NMED also approved January 6, 2012, as the date to plug and abandon Test Well 3 (TW-3). NMED also noted that R-66 must be completed in time to conduct the cross-hole pumping test between R-66 and TW-3 before TW-3 is plugged and abandoned.

The reason for the proposed change is that the water level in the newly constructed R-64 well appears to be 10 ft higher than expected. This water level is going to strongly influence the location of well R-65. Therefore, Los Alamos National Laboratory proposes installing R-66 ahead of R-65 to allow time to monitor water levels at R-64, obtain the first round of groundwater analytical, and then construct a drilling pad for R-65, following an additional siting tour with NMED. With this proposed change, both wells will still be completed in the currently approved time frame. R-66 should be completed by October 30, 2011, and R-65 should be completed December 6, 2011.

All these activities (drill R-65 and R-66, complete the cross-hole pumping test, and plug and abandon TW-3) will provide information to be included in the Material Disposal Area T corrective measures evaluation report, due December 11, 2012. This adjustment to the drilling schedules will not impact the submission of this report.

If you have any questions, please contact Ted Ball at (505) 665-3996 (tedball@lanl.gov) or Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lance.woodworth@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/TB:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
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