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Date: SEP 07 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0300

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 the Work Plan for Perched-Intermediate Well SCI-4

Dear Mr. Kieling:

In its letter of March 28, 2011, regarding the status of perched-intermediate well SCI-4 the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) required Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) to submit a work plan for drilling SCI-4 no more than 5 days after total depth of well R-62 was reached. However, based on observations made during drilling of R-62, it is not clear where SCI-4 should be sited or if it is even necessary. The perched groundwater zone encountered on top of the basalt is not the targeted aquifer, and the deeper zone which is of interest does not appear to produce enough water to support a well.

In a phone conversation with Michael Dale of your staff on August 30, 2011, it was agreed that additional information is needed before a work plan is submitted. The agreement was to complete and sample both wells R-62 and SCI-3 and to evaluate the groundwater analytical data before deciding on the placement of, or possibly even the need for, well SCI-4. Both wells should be completed by September 30, 2011, and sampled by the end of November 2011. Validated data from the two sampling events will be available by January 2012. Therefore, the Laboratory requests an extension until February 15, 2012, to submit the SCI-4 work plan.

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

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MG/GR/CD/TB/ME:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
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