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OCT 2011
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: OCT 20 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0347

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 September 2011 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Members of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Programs staff met on October 13, 2011, to review new groundwater data received in September 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 October 13, 2011, and followed up with a phone call (voice message) on the same day.

The four 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:

- Aluminum, iron, and manganese were found at 9170 µg/L, 12,800 µg/L, and 703 µg/L, respectively, in a filtered sample collected July 26, 2011, from Mortandad Canyon regional aquifer well R-38; the respective New Mexico groundwater standards are 5000 µg/L, 1000 µg/L, and 200 µg/L. These results are far above those for 15 other analyses, including a field duplicate sample, suggesting analytical error; sample reanalysis is in progress.
- Iron was found at 1320 µg/L in a filtered sample collected July 18, 2011, from Mortandad Canyon intermediate well R-55i; the New Mexico groundwater standard is 1000 µg/L. This is the third sample from the well; iron and manganese concentrations have increased with each sample.

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 September 2011 (LA-UR-11-5934)

Cy: (w/enc.)
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo, NM
Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Steve Paris, EP-CAP, MS M992
RPF, MS M707 (electronic copy)
Public Reading Room, MS M992 (hard copy)

Cy: (Letter and CD/DVD only)
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Ed Worth, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Jake Meadows, ENV-RCRA, MS K490
Steve Yanicak, NMED-OB, MS M894
William Alexander, EP-BPS, MS M992

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)
Mei Ding, EES-6, MS J514 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Ardyth Simmons, EP-ET, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
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