SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
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Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
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DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Acting Deputy Secretary

EP2011-5484

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 19, 2011

George J. Rael
Assistant Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
3747 West Jemez Rd, MSA316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

RE: APPROVAL
EXTENSION REQUEST TO COMPLETE
THE TWO-PHASE PURGE TEST FOR
REGIONAL AQUIFER WELL R-29
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-11-GW-MISC

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Request for Extension to Complete the Two-Phase Purge Test for Regional Aquifer Well R-29* (Test) dated October 6, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0337.

The Permittees request the extension to complete the Test due to the need to focus on removal of transuranic (TRU) waste from Technical Area (TA) 54 to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, located in Eddy County, New Mexico. The need to remove TRU waste stored at TA-54 is aligned with Governor Martinez' policy to prioritize groundwater and surface water protection and accelerate the removal of TRU waste stored at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The Permittees stated cause for the requested time extension is acceptable. The completion date for the Test is hereby postponed from October 21, 2011 to **October 21, 2013**, as requested. The results of sampling of well R-29 indicate that the data cannot be considered to be reliable until further testing is completed. The Permittees must notify NMED, within 30 days of receipt of such information, should funds become available in the future that allow for the purge test to be completed prior to October 21, 2013.

Please contact Dave Cobrain at (505) 476-6055 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

John E. Kieling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
M. Dale, NMED HWB
J. Kulis, NMED HWB
J. Schoeppner, NMED GWQB
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
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L. King, EPA 6PD-N
H. Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
D. Katzman, EP-CAP, MS A992
P. Maggiore, DOE-LASO, MS A316

File: Reading and LANL 2011 – Groundwater, R-29, Purge Test

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