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Date: NOV 0 1 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0359

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: Request to Discontinue Quarterly Vapor Sampling at Material Disposal Area H

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security (LANS), LLC, request approval from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to discontinue quarterly vapor sampling at Material Disposal Area (MDA) H. Vapor-sampling (e.g., pore-gas monitoring) at MDA H has been performed on a quarterly basis since 2005.

The nature and extent of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the vadose zone have been defined at MDA H through the investigation activities performed pursuant to the Compliance Order on Consent and subsequent vapor-monitoring activities. Under the current sampling program, VOC and tritium samples are collected on a quarterly basis from 28 sampling ports in 4 vapor-monitoring wells. The corrective measures evaluation report for MDA H (LA-UR-11-5079, EP2011-02091) evaluated VOC vapor data for the site and concluded corrective measures were not required for subsurface VOC vapor contamination based on the concentrations and mass of VOCs present in the vadose zone. Concentrations of VOCs are all less than conservative screening levels established to ensure protection of groundwater. The estimated total mass of VOCs present in the vadose zone is on the order of 2 kg, with 0.1 kg from halogenated VOCs. As described in the CME report for MDA H, this small contaminant mass does not pose a potential future threat to groundwater.

DOE/LANS propose to discontinue quarterly vapor sampling at MDA H beginning in the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2012. DOE/LANS will submit the periodic monitoring report for the most recent vapor samples collected during the fourth quarter of FY2011 in December 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact Jarrett Rice at (505) 665-3874 (wjrice@lanl.gov) or Peter Maggiore at (505) 665-5658 (peter.maggiore@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

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

Sincerely,

George J. Rael, Assistant Manager
Environmental Projects Office
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MG/GR/TG:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
Jim Davis, NMED-Resource Protection, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamped letter emailed)
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