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Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY
EST.1943
Environmental Programs
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 606-2337FAX (505) 665-1812

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NOV 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: NOV 2 1 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0371

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 October 2011 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Members of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Programs staff met on November 15, 2011, to review new groundwater data received in October 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 November 15, 2011, and followed up with a phone call (voice message) on the same day.

The five 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:

- Perchlorate was found at 5.58 µg/L in a filtered sample collected August 8, 2011, from Vine Tree Spring, an intermediate groundwater monitoring location in Lower Los Alamos Canyon on San Ildefonso Pueblo; the Compliance Order on Consent perchlorate screening level is 4 µg/L. Similar perchlorate concentrations have been found since 2008 at nearby Basalt Spring.
- Iron and manganese were found at 2550 µg/L and 1100 µg/L, respectively, in a filtered sample collected August 18, 2011, from the 1125-ft screen of Mortandad Canyon regional aquifer well R-61; the respective New Mexico groundwater standards are 1000 µg/L and 200 µg/L. This is the second sample from the well; iron and manganese concentrations have increased from the first sample.
- Iron and manganese were found at 5590 µg/L and 908 µg/L, respectively, in a filtered sample collected August 19, 2011, from the 1220-ft screen of Mortandad Canyon regional aquifer well R-61; the respective New Mexico groundwater standards are 1000 µg/L and 200 µg/L. This is the second sample from the well; iron and manganese concentrations have increased from the first 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 October 2011 (LA-UR-11-6227)

Cy: (w/enc.)
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo, NM
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
Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
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)
Craig Douglass, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991 (date-stamped letter emailed)