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Date: DEC 07 2011
Refer To: EP2011-0404

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 for Extension to Submit the Well Evaluation and Network Recommendations Study Report for Technical Area 16 and Upper Water Canyon Watershed

Dear Mr. Kieling:

This letter requests an extension from the January 3, 2012, date to submit a well evaluation and network recommendations study report for Technical Area 16 (TA-16) and Upper Water Canyon Watershed (the TA-16 Network Evaluation) to a new date of March 30, 2012. This new date was developed to support the mutual goal of environmental risk reduction and groundwater protection.

The last several months have been dedicated to prioritizing fiscal year (FY) 2012 work to support acceleration of aboveground transuranic waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. In the course of realigning the FY2012 work scope, the schedule for completing the TA-16 Network Evaluation was impacted. Once the FY2012 work scope was resolved, the Laboratory adjusted its staffing resources to support completion of the TA-16 Network Evaluation. The TA-16 Network Evaluation requires extensive analysis of groundwater monitoring data and source terms in the TA-16 area and groundwater modeling. The impact of the delays associated with determining the FY2012 scope and the scope of the TA-16 Network Evaluation resulted in a 3-mo delay of this analysis.

Based on the above rationale, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) request a 3-mo extension to submit the TA-16 Network Evaluation. DOE/LANS request this extension under Section III.J.2 of the March 2005 Compliance Order on Consent.

If you have any questions, please contact John McCann at (505) 665-1091 (jmccann@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

MG/GR/TG/DM/JM: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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