ERID-209739

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Date: JAN 2 0 2012
Refer To: EP2012-0003

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 December 2011 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Members of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Programs staff met on January 12, 2012, to review new groundwater data received in December 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 January 13, 2012, and followed up with a phone call (voice message) on the same day.

The two 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 and iron were found at 14,200 µg/L and 8730 µg/L, respectively, in the filtered primary sample collected October 21, 2011, from the 915-ft screen of Pajarito Canyon regional aquifer well R-51. The New Mexico groundwater standard for aluminum (applicable to irrigation use) is 5000 µg/L. The New Mexico groundwater standard for iron (applicable to domestic water supply) is 1000 µg/L. These and other metal concentrations for this analysis were much higher than previous results from samples collected from this well screen. This is the 8th sample event for this screen. For aluminum, the filtered field duplicate results for this sample event and all other (that is, current and prior) filtered and unfiltered results were nondetect. For iron, the filtered field duplicate results for this sample event and all prior filtered results were nondetect; the unfiltered results for this and earlier sample events were all either very low (that is, below 55 µg/L) or nondetect. We asked the analytical laboratory to reanalyze this 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 December 2011 (LA-UR-12-0087)

Cy: (w/enc.)
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
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo, NM
Ed Worth, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316
Steve Paris, EP-CAP, MS M992
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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)
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