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



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: JAN 2 0 2012
Refer To: EP2012-0015

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 Plug and Abandon Test Well 3

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The purpose of this letter is to request an extension on the due date to plug and abandon Test Well (TW) 3 in Los Alamos Canyon because of changed conditions discovered late last week.

During the initial investigation at H-19 last fall, Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) personnel discovered an obstruction at about 60 ft below ground surface that prevented the video camera from going past this object. Initial drilling out of the object required much of the week of January 9 to 13, 2012. This drilling out of wood and other materials blocking the well revealed that 12-in.-diameter casing is in the borehole at a depth of at least 580 ft.

Given the unexpected discovery that well H-19 contains well casing to a depth of at least 580 ft, the plan to plug and abandon this well had to be altered, and the tools required to complete this work had to be requested from the subcontractor. The additional work scope involved in drilling out the obstruction and preparing for an alternative plugging and abandonment approach have resulted in a delay of 2 weeks in the progress to complete the plugging and abandonment of this well. This delay has impacted the next activity for the equipment being used at H-19, which is the plugging and abandonment of TW-3.

Therefore, the Laboratory requests an extension of the due date to complete plugging and abandoning TW-3 from January 27, 2012 to February 10, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact Ted Ball at (505) 665-3996 (tedball@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/CD/TB:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Hai Shen, DOE-LASO, MS A316 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Ted Ball, EP-CAP, MS M996 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Craig Douglass, EP-CAP, MS M996 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991 (date-stamped letter emailed)
William Alexander, EP-BPS, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
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