ERID-211309

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

RECEIVED
FEB 2012
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: FEB 2 3 2012
Refer To: EP2012-0035

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 January 2012 Groundwater Data

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Members of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Programs staff met on February 14, 2012, to review new groundwater data received in January 2012. 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 February 14, 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:

- Arsenic was found at 23.4 µg/L and 16.5 µg/L, respectively, in unfiltered and filtered samples collected on November 16, 2011, at Sandia Canyon intermediate well SCI-1. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency maximum contaminant level for arsenic is 10 µg/L. Previous unfiltered and filtered sample concentrations at this well are either nondetect (<5 µg/L) or usually below 2.7 µg/L. The November 16, 2011, results are estimated and are the result of a fivefold dilution that decreases accuracy (usually no dilution is used for analysis). The analytical laboratory was asked to reanalyze this sample. The reanalysis results for both samples were nondetect. The original results will be marked as rejected based on the reanalysis.

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 January 2012 (LA-UR-12-0607)

Cy: (w/enc.)
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
Neil Weber, San Ildefonso Pueblo, NM
Jake Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo, NM
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)
Craig Douglass, EP-CAP, MS M992 (date-stamped letter emailed)
Michael J. Graham, ADEP, MS M991 (date-stamped letter emailed)