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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: DEC 21 2012
Refer To: EP2012-0302

John Kieling, Bureau Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

Subject: Proposal to Submit Interim Measures Work Plan for Chromium Contamination in Groundwater

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) is submitting this request to conduct interim measures in accordance with Section VII.B.1 of the Compliance Order on Consent. The Laboratory proposes to submit an interim measures work plan (IMWP) to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by March 15, 2013.

The IMWP will provide details of scope that will include (1) hydraulic testing of regional aquifer and perched-intermediate zone wells to refine a capture zone analysis and to provide information on secondary chromium sources; (2) removing some of the chromium mass from the perched-intermediate zone beneath Sandia Canyon (and regional wells during hydraulic testing); and (3) conducting a suite of bench-scale and field-scale geochemical studies to further refine key aspects of porosity and natural attenuation attributes in the regional aquifer strata. Completion of this scope is expected to require approximately 1 yr after approval from NMED and will provide valuable information to optimize the corrective measures evaluation (CME) and potentially limit plume expansion.

The work conducted under the IMWP dovetails with the information and conclusions presented in the Sandia Canyon Phase II investigation report, submitted to NMED on September 30, 2012, and represents a focused path forward for identifying the final remedy for the chromium contamination in groundwater. The work that will be proposed in the IMWP is also in concert with pending construction of the grade-control structure, which will provide a key interim solution to stabilize polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in the Sandia Canyon wetland and facilitate effluent volume reductions, an integral component of the source-control for chromium in the vadose zone. The Laboratory proposes to provide a CME report documenting the results of the IMWP in 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact John McCann at (505) 665-1091 (jmccann@lanl.gov) or Cheryl Rodriguez at (505) 665-5330 (cheryl.rodriguez@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

Jeff Mousseau, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,

Peter Maggiore, Assistant Manager
Environmental Projects Office
Los Alamos Site Office

JM/PM/DM/JM:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Steven Rydeen, San Ildefonso Pueblo
Joe Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB (date-stamped letter emailed)
Annette Russell, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
David Rhodes, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
Cheryl Rodriguez, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)
John McCann, EP-CAP (date-stamped letter emailed)
Dave McInroy, EP-CAP (date-stamped letter emailed)
Jeff Mousseau, ADEP (date-stamped letter emailed)
Wendy Staples, EP-BPS, MS M992
Public Reading Room, MS M992 (hard copy)
RPF (electronic copy)