ERID-243672

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JUN 27 2013

NMED
Hazardous Waste Bureau

Date: JUN 27 2013
Refer To: EP2013-0131

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

Subject: Requests for Extension to Submit the Drilling Work Plans for R-54 and R-55i Replacement Wells

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) is in receipt of the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) letter, dated May 28, 2013, which required the Laboratory to submit drilling work plans for replacement of wells R-54 and R-55i. The Laboratory requests an extension of the July 15, 2013, date to submit these drilling work plans and proposes a new date of December 15, 2013.

The basis for the extension request is to allow the Laboratory time to conduct evaluations of other potential cause(s), in addition to hammer oil, for the reducing conditions present in R-54 and R-55i. These evaluations will also allow the Laboratory time to identify potential approaches to mitigate these conditions to ensure data from these wells are representative and can support the monitoring objectives at Technical Area 54. The Laboratory acknowledges the importance of these wells as part of long-term performance monitoring of remedial actions proposed by the Laboratory in the corrective measures evaluation reports for Material Disposal Areas H, L, and G, submitted to NMED on September 9, 2011. The Laboratory wants to ensure the cause or causes for the reducing conditions in these wells are identified and can be avoided when drilling new or replacement groundwater wells in the future. If the Laboratory is unable to mitigate these conditions and ensure data from these wells are representative, the Laboratory will submit drilling work plans for the replacement of wells R-54 and R-55i by December 15, 2013.

The U.S. Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC, request this extension under Section III.J.2 of the March 2005 Compliance Order on Consent.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Paris at (505) 606-0915 (smparis@lanl.gov) or Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lance.woodworth@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

Jeff Mousseau, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,

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

JM/PM/DM:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX (date-stamped letter emailed)
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