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Date: DEC 09 2013
Refer To: EP2013-0299

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

Subject: Submittal of the 2013 Report for Erosion Controls Associated with Fishladder Canyon [Solid Waste Management Unit 16-003(o)]

Dear Mr. Kieling:

This letter documents storm water management following mitigation activities at Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 16-003(o) within Fishladder Canyon. This letter is required as part of the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) approval with modifications for the Phase II investigation report for the Technical Area 16 (TA-16) 340 Complex, Revision 1, dated February 9, 2009.

Storm water controls were installed during Phase II investigation activities conducted in July 2008 on the mesa top and north-facing hillslope draining into Fishladder Canyon and in the main Fishladder Canyon drainage. The controls included straw wattles on the mesa top, hillslope, and access road and were designed to control surface erosion and sediment transport by establishing a permanent vegetation cover.

Subsequent to NMED's February 9, 2009, approval letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued Los Alamos National Laboratory's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Storm Water Individual Permit (Permit No. NM0030759). This Individual Permit (IP), which became effective on November 1, 2010, regulates storm water discharges from SWMUs and areas of concern; SWMU 16-003(o) is one of the SWMUs included in the IP. The storm water controls installed during the Phase II investigation have been incorporated into the Site Discharge Pollution Prevention Plan required by the IP and include straw wattles and berms along the upper slope and along the Fishladder Canyon access road and a rock check dam and a gabion structure in the main drainage channel, all of which were designed to reduce flow velocities and sediment transport. The straw wattles installed on the steep slope at the former Fishladder location have been retired in place; the slope had been stabilized, and the wattles were no longer needed. Figure 1 is an IP Site Monitoring Area (SMA) map showing the IP sampler location, IP storm water controls, and SWMUs associated with the SMA. Storm water controls associated with Fishladder Canyon [SWMU 16-003(o)] consist of a gabion (-0002), a rock check dam (-0016), and three straw wattles

(-0009, -0010, and -0023); see Figures 2 through 8. Other storm water controls in this SMA are not associated with SWMU 16-003(o) and are not discussed in this report.

NMED's approval with modifications for the Phase II investigation report for the TA-16 340 Complex, Revision 1, dated February 2009, requires an annual inspection of storm water controls for this location. Storm water controls at the SWMU are inspected under the IP program at least once per year to evaluate if conditions that affect erosion have changed and when a significant event occurs (such as a wildfire) that could significantly affect runoff. Controls are also inspected after significant rainfall events and in the event that sampling results exceed IP target action levels. Inspections and associated maintenance activities are documented in the IP annual report submitted to EPA by March 1 each year.

Controls at this SWMU were inspected seven times this year: during two annual erosion evaluations and following eight separate rain events between July and September 2013 (more than one rain event may be captured by an inspection).

1. An annual erosion evaluation was completed on May 3, 2013, and three wattles were retired because the immediate area had stabilized and the controls were no longer needed.
2. A rain event inspection was completed on July 11, 2013, with no findings or maintenance issues.
3. A second rain event inspection was completed on July 16, 2013, with no findings or maintenance issues.
4. A third rain event inspection was completed on August 1, 2013, with no findings or maintenance issues.
5. A fourth rain event inspection was completed on August 20, 2013, with no findings or maintenance issues.
6. A fifth rain event inspection was completed on September 19, 2013. This inspection also served as a significant event inspection for the September 13, 2013, rain event. Two wattles and one rock check dam were damaged. The wattles were subsequently repaired on November 13, 2013, and the rock check dam was repaired on November 18, 2013.
7. A second annual erosion evaluation was completed on November 18, 2013. Evidence of flow around a gabion was noted, and the gabion was repaired on November 18, 2013.

The erosion control inspection, maintenance, and reporting requirements contained in NMED's February 9, 2009, approval letter are now duplicative of requirements contained in the IP. Therefore, the U.S. Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC, request that the requirement to submit a summary report by December 31 each year be terminated effective December 31, 2013.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Veenis at (505) 667-0013 (veenis@lanl.gov) or Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lance.woodworth@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

For

Jeff Mousseau, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,

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

JM/PM/CD/SV:sm

Enclosures: Two hard copies with electronic files – Figures for the 2013 Report for Erosion Controls Associated with Fishladder Canyon [Solid Waste Management Unit 16-003(o)] (LA-UR-13-29052)

Cy: (w/enc.)
Woody Woodworth, DOE-NA-00-LA, MS A316
Steve Veenis, EP-CAP, MS M997
Public Reading Room (hard copy)
RPF (electronic copy)

Cy: (Letter and CD and/or DVD)
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Raymond Martinez, San Ildefonso Pueblo
Joe Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB, MS M894
Jeff Walterscheid, EP-CAP, MS M992
Mark Everett, EP-ET, MS M992
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