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Date: SEP 15 2014
Refer To: EP2014-0444

John Kieling, 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 for the Phase II Investigation Report for Sites at Technical Area 49 Outside the Nuclear Environmental Site Boundary

Dear Mr. Kieling:

This letter requests the postponement of the September 30, 2014, date to submit the Phase II Investigation Report for Sites at Technical Area 49 Outside the Nuclear Environmental Site Boundary. The U.S. Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (DOE/LANS) are preparing a supplemental investigation report (SIR) for the sites at Technical Area 49 (TA-49) outside the nuclear environmental site (NES) boundary. Although this document is currently not required under the March 2005 Compliance Order on Consent (the Consent Order), DOE/LANS intend to submit the SIR to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by December 24, 2015.

In January 2012, NMED and DOE/LANS entered into a *Framework Agreement: Realignment of Environmental Priorities* (Framework Agreement) at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Under the Framework Agreement, NMED and DOE agreed to review characterization efforts undertaken to date pursuant to the Consent Order to identify those sites where the nature and extent of contamination have been adequately characterized. The Framework Agreement also stipulated the use of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance in this process, except in cases where EPA guidance was not supported by sound science. Pursuant to the Framework Agreement, DOE/LANS reviewed the data evaluation process with respect to EPA guidance and the Framework Agreement principles and concluded that this process could be revised to complete site characterization more efficiently while providing full protection of human health and the environment. Specifically, the process for evaluating data to define extent of contamination was revised to provide a greater emphasis on risk/dose reduction, consistent with EPA guidance.

The TA-49 investigation outside the NES boundary is 1 of 11 investigation reports proposed to be reevaluated and SIRs submitted. The SIRs will present recommendations for sites requiring additional sampling and/or remediation and recommend certificates of completion (COCs) with or without controls, as appropriate. The SIRs will also propose new dates for Phase II work plans should additional characterization sampling or remediation actions be warranted. DOE/LANS request the September 30, 2014, date be postponed until the SIR for the sites at TA-49 outside the NES boundary is submitted.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephani Swickley at (505) 606-1628 (sfuller@lanl.gov) or Arturo Duran at (505) 665-7772 (arturo.duran@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/SS:sm

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