ERID-520840

# NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

## *Hazardous Waste Bureau*

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Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

JAMES H. DAVIS, Ph.D.
Director
Resource Protection Division

EP2012-5173

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

July 3, 2012

Peter Maggiore
Assistant Manager, Env. Projects Office
Los Alamos Site Office, DOE
3747 West Jemez Rd, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham
Associate Director, Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

U1201478

**RE: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATION**
**REPORT FOR THE PILOT INVESTIGATION OF THE BUCKMAN WELL FIELD PIEZOMETERS**
**EPA ID#NM0890010515**
**HWB-LANL-12-028**

Dear Messrs Maggiore and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Report for the Pilot Investigation of the Buckman Well Field Piezometers* (Report) dated May 2012 and referenced by EP2012-0090. The Report was received on April 27, 2012. NMED has reviewed the Report, and hereby issues this approval with modification.

As stated in the Report, the Permittees recommend sampling the Buckman Well Field piezometers SF-3A and SF-4A on a triennial basis for contaminant monitoring purposes. The Permittees' proposed triennial sampling frequency for the piezometers is not protective of groundwater with respect to detecting the early arrival of contamination (e.g., hexavalent chromium) sourced from Los Alamos National Laboratory. Therefore, the Permittees must collect samples at piezometers SF-3A and SF-4A on an annual basis until directed otherwise. As recommended, samples must be analyzed for chromium, nitrate, perchlorate, and tritium. Since tritium is an important indicator of contaminant

migration, tritium samples must be analyzed using an appropriate method that will detect tritium at activities at or near 1 pCi/L. Analytical detection limits for perchlorate must be at or near 0.5 ug/L.

Please contact Michael Dale at (505) 661-2673 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
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File: Reading and LANL 2012 – Buckman Well Field Piezometers Report

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NAME
Z# 099641
DATE 7-9-2012

New Mexico Enviroment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
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