Response to the Review of Periodic Monitoring Report for White Rock Watershed
March 22 – March 26, 2010
Los Alamos National Laboratory
EPA ID #NM0890010515 HWB-LANL-I0-064
Dated October 22, 2010

INTRODUCTION

To facilitate review of this response, the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) comments are included verbatim. Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL's or the Laboratory's) responses follow each NMED comment.

COMMENTS

NMED Comment

1. *NMED noted that aluminum was detected at 271 µg/L in the unfiltered water sample collected from Spring 4C while aluminum was detected at 1040 µg/L in the filtered water sample collected from the same source. Concentrations of iron, lead, and manganese in the unfiltered and filtered water samples were similarly inverted: 316:1280 µg/L, 0.505:0.987 µg/L, and 6.03:17.5 µg/L respectively. Concentrations of other metals in the unfiltered and filtered water samples were nearly equivalent. The Permittees must verify the sample identification of the two water samples collected at Spring 4C and explain the discrepancy in metal concentrations between filtered and unfiltered water samples collected at that spring. The Permittees' explanations must be included in the next Periodic Monitoring Report submittal. The next submittal must reference this Report and all applicable page and table numbers.*

LANL Response

1. LANL verified that the sample identification of the two water samples collected at Spring 4C is consistent between field sampling records and reported results.

   The discrepancy in metal concentrations between filtered and unfiltered water samples collected at Spring 4C is most likely the result of the switching of prelabeled sample bottles in the field, which resulted in incorrect field preparation (filtered or unfiltered) of the samples.

   This explanation will also be included in the next PMR for the White Rock Watershed, referencing the PMR for the March 2010 sampling event and all applicable page and table numbers.