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*Date:* March 18, 2008  
*Refer To:* EP2008-0144

James P. Bearzi, Bureau Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

**Subject: Submittal of Pilot Test Work Plan for Evaluating Vapor-Sampling Systems at Material Disposal Area C**

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

On February 19, 2008, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) received direction from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to defer the installation of FLUTE vapor-sampling systems in investigation boreholes located at Material Disposal Area (MDA) C. LANL's Environmental Programs Directorate was in the process of implementing the August 13, 2008, approved Phase II work plan when this direction was received. NMED expressed concerns associated with vapor-monitoring data collected at MDA H and requested an evaluation study be performed to verify data reliability before the 14 FLUTE vapor-monitoring systems identified in the MDA C Phase II work plan are installed.

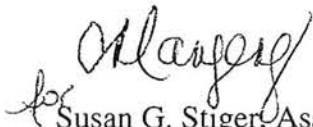
Several discussions occurred between our staff regarding the scope of a vapor-monitoring system evaluation. Final direction from NMED was received by LANL in the form of an email dated February 29, 2008. NMED requested that LANL submit a work plan describing the proposed activities and methods for evaluating the results from data collected from different vapor-monitoring systems. Attached please find two copies of the "Pilot Test Work Plan for Evaluating Vapor Sampling Systems at Material Disposal Area C."

A total of five boreholes are proposed for the pilot test evaluation and a total of 56 vapor samples will be collected at various depth intervals that correspond to low, medium, and high relative concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in samples collected previously at MDA C. Vapor samples will be collected from three different monitoring systems: the packer system, the FLUTE system, and a stainless-steel tubing system. Vapor samples will be submitted to an off-site contract analytical laboratory for analysis of VOCs and tritium.

The pilot test work plan includes a proposed schedule for implementing the vapor-monitoring system evaluation. Because the pilot study must be executed before the Phase II investigation activities are completed, LANL will request an extension in a separate letter for delivering the MDA C Phase II investigation report after the pilot test work plan has been approved.

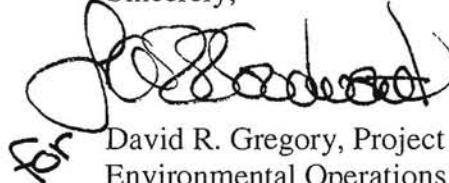
If you have any questions, please contact Kent Rich at (505) 665-4272 (krich@lanl.gov) or Cheryl Rodriguez at (505) 665-5330 (crodriguez2@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,



for Susan G. Stiger, Associate Director  
Environmental Programs  
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



for David R. Gregory, Project Director  
Environmental Operations  
Los Alamos Site Office

SS/DG/DM/KR:sm

Enclosures: 1) Two hard copies with electronic files of the Pilot Test Work Plan for Evaluating Vapor-Sampling Systems at Material Disposal Area C (EP2008-0144)

Cy: (w/enc.)  
Kent Rich, EP-CAP, MS M992  
RPF, MS M707 (with two CDs)  
Public Reading Room, MS M992

Cy: (Letter and CD only)  
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX  
Steve Yanicak, NMED-OB, White Rock, NM  
Joe Sena, LATA  
Cheryl Rodriguez, DOE-LASO, MS A316  
Peggy Reneau, WES-DO, MS M992  
EP-CAP File, MS M992

Cy: (w/o enc.)  
Tom Skibitski, NMED-OB, Santa Fe, NM  
Bonita Eichorst, DOE-LASO (date-stamped letter emailed)  
Susan G. Stiger, ADEP, MS M991  
Carolyn A. Mangeng, ADEP, MS M991  
Alison M. Dorries, WES-DO, MS M992  
Dave McInroy, EP-CAP, MS M992  
IRM-RMMSO, MS A150