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Date: **MAR 07 2011**
Refer To: EP2011-0101

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

Subject: Extension Requests for the Well Evaluation and Network Recommendations Study Report for Technical Area 16 and Upper Water Canyon Watershed and the Pump Test Report for Well CdV-16-4ip

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Los Alamos National Security (LANS), LLC, and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) are in receipt of the letter entitled "Well Evaluation and Network Recommendations Study for Technical Area 16 and Upper Water Canyon," dated January 31, 2011. The purpose of our letter is to request an extension of the July 1, 2011, deadline specified in the letter to submit a well evaluation and network recommendations study report (the network evaluation report). In addition, we are also requesting an extension to the pump test report for well CdV-16-4ip, which as explained below, is an input to the network evaluation report.

As explained during a meeting of your staff with representatives of LANS and DOE on February 16, 2011, a great deal of work related to groundwater in the Water Canyon/Cañon de Valle watershed is currently being conducted. This work includes the reliability evaluation of well R-47i, the pump test of well CdV-16-4ip, the reliability evaluation of multiscreened Westbay wells, sampling of newly installed well R-63, and the investigation of the Water Canyon/Cañon de Valle watershed. All this ongoing work will provide important inputs to the network evaluation report. The current schedule for delivering the network evaluation report, however, does not allow for all the results of this work to be incorporated into the network evaluation report. Most importantly, the Water Canyon/Cañon de Valle watershed investigation report, which will contain important refinements to the conceptual model for intermediate and regional groundwater flow in the watershed, is not due until August 31, 2011. As discussed with your staff, delaying the network evaluation report until these other reports are completed will ensure the network evaluation report is as complete and defensible as possible. Therefore, we are requesting an extension until December 15, 2011, to submit the network evaluation report. The revised date for submitting the network evaluation report would be 106 days after submittal of the Water Canyon/Cañon de Valle watershed investigation report and would allow time for the results of this investigation to be integrated into the network evaluation.

LANS and DOE also request an extension for submittal of the Technical Area 16-260 Groundwater Corrective Measures Evaluation Aquifer Test Report. This report is scheduled to be delivered to New Mexico Environment Department on March 27, 2011. As discussed with your staff at the February 16, 2011, meeting, the start of this aquifer test was delayed until regional well R-63 was completed through the development phase and well-specific aquifer testing to eliminate complications due to pneumatic pressures. Because the R-63 well elements are now complete, aquifer testing was initiated on February 26, 2011, and is expected to run through the month of March 2011. Therefore, LANS and DOE request an extension of 60 days until May 26, 2011, to submit a report on this test.

If you have any questions, please contact John McCann at (505) 665-1091 (jmccann@lanl.gov) or Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lwoodworth@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael J. Graham, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



George J. Rael, Manager
Environmental Projects Office
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MG/GR/DM/JM:sm

Cy: Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
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