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**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

EP2011-5559

December 14, 2011

George J. Rael
Assistant Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
3747 West Jemez Rd, MSA316
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

**RE: APPROVAL
EXTENSION REQUEST
SUBMITTAL OF THE INVESTIGATION REPORT
CAÑON DE VALLE AGGREGATE AREA, TECHNICAL AREA 15
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-06-019**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

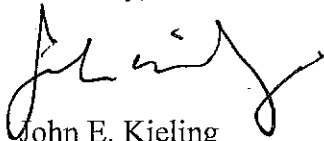
The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Request for Extension to Submit the Investigation Report for Cañon de Valle Aggregate Area, Technical Area 15*, dated December 7, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0393.

The Permittees request the extension to submit the investigation report due to the need to focus efforts on shipment of aboveground transuranic (TRU) waste from Technical Area (TA) 54 to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, located in Eddy County, New Mexico. The need to remove TRU waste stored at TA-54 is aligned with Governor Martinez' policy to prioritize groundwater and surface water protection and accelerate the removal of TRU waste stored at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The work plan for the Cañon de Valle Aggregate Area was submitted on September 29, 2006 and approved by NMED on February 9, 2007. The Permittees had sufficient time to implement the approved work plan. It is noted that the Permittees did not begin to investigate TA-15 until late 2011 and the Permittees' focus has recently shifted to removal of TRU waste from TA-54. NMED finds the stated cause for the requested time extension acceptable. The submittal date for the investigation report is hereby postponed from July 2, 2012 to **July 2, 2014**, as requested. NMED may re-evaluate the need for this extension based on the Permittees' progress in accelerating removal of TRU waste from TA-54 or if new information becomes available that indicates off-site migration of contamination. The Permittees must notify NMED, within 30 days of receipt of such information, should funds become available in the future that allow for the investigation report to be prepared and submitted for the Cañon de Valle Aggregate Area, TA-15 prior to July 2, 2014.

Please contact Neelam Dhawan at (505) 476-6042 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS M894
L. King, EPA 6PD-N
P. Maggiore, DOE-LASO, MS A316
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J. Rice, ADEP, MS A991

File: Reading and LANL 2011 – Cañon de Valle Aggregate Area IR