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Date: JUN 18 2012
Refer To: EP2012-0138

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

Subject: Proposal to Perform Interim Measure Alternatives Analysis for Chromium in Sandia and Mortandad Canyons

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) submitted the Investigation Report for Sandia Canyon in October 2009. This report presented the results of investigations conducted since the initial identification of chromium contamination in the groundwater in 2005. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) responded with an approval with direction to conduct additional investigations, including the installation of new groundwater monitoring wells. The Phase II Investigation Report for Sandia Canyon (Phase 2 IR), which will be submitted to NMED by September 30, 2012, will present the data from the expanded monitoring network and update the conceptual model to address recent chromium detections in the regional aquifer monitoring wells.

Based on recent increases in chromium concentrations at wells R-43 and R-50 and new data collected at recently completed wells R-61 and R-62, the Laboratory also proposes to conduct an evaluation of potential alternatives that may be implemented to control the chromium plume as an interim measure under Section VII.B of the Compliance Order on Consent. Over the next several months, in consultation with NMED, the Laboratory will determine appropriate interim measures for analysis.

The Laboratory proposes to submit an interim measures work plan by December 15, 2012. This date will allow the updated conceptual model that will be presented in the Phase 2 IR to be incorporated into the work plan.

If you have any questions, please contact John McCann at (505) 665-1091 (jmccann@lanl.gov) or Cheryl Rodriguez at (505) 665-5330 (cheryl.rodriguez@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



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



Peter Maggiore, Assistant Manager
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MG/PM/CD/JM:sm

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