



**Associate Directorate for Environmental Management**

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**Environmental Management**

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Date: MAR 06 2017

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Locates Action No.: n/a

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



**Subject: Notification of Delay in Well R-68 Completion and First Sample Collection**

Dear Mr. Kieling:

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) are providing notification of a delay in the anticipated date for collecting the first sample from regional aquifer well R-68. Originally, it was estimated that the well would be complete and the first sample would be collected by February 28, 2017. The revised estimate is now March 20, 2017. The September 27, 2016, New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Approval of the Groundwater Investigation Work Plan for Consolidated Unit 16-021(c)-99, Including Drilling Work Plans for Wells R-68 and R-69, stated that if R-68 cannot be completed and sampled by February 28, 2107, the Permittees must provide NMED with formal notification of the delay and reasons for such delay as soon as possible.

Well R-68 was NMED complete on February 27, 2017. The subcontractor began drilling on January 9, 2017, on a 24/7 schedule, and it was anticipated at the time that total depth would be achieved by January 22. During drilling, perched-intermediate groundwater was encountered as expected, and actions were taken to collect detailed screening data from 20-ft intervals and to isolate the perched zone. Those activities and some weather delays led to achieving total depth on February 2, 11 days later than initially planned. After achieving total depth for the borehole and receiving NMED approval for the well design, well construction has been occurring on a 24-hour schedule but is taking longer than expected. The initial anticipated date for achieving NMED-complete was February 15 but was achieved on February 27, 12 days later than initially planned.

The work in March will be conducted under special requirements per the Los Alamos National Laboratory Habitat Management Plan because it will occur during the annual seasonal noise restrictions in Mexican spotted owl habitat. The work has been permitted to continue during the restricted time frame with special conditions. With the exception of the 24-hour aquifer test, work

must be conducted only during daylight hours and the drill rig is being switched to a smaller, quieter unit that will be situated on the pad in a way that directs noise away from the owl's habitat. During that period, the 24-hour aquifer test will be conducted by the use of headlamps and other low-lighting methods and a quieted generator. After the aquifer test is completed, the sampling pump will be installed and the first sample will be collected.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephani Swickley at (505) 606-1628 (sfuller@lanl.gov) or Cheryl Rodriguez at (505) 665-5330 (cheryl.rodriguez@em.doe.gov).

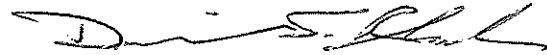
Sincerely,



Bruce Robinson, Program Director  
Environmental Remediation Program  
Los Alamos National Laboratory

BR/DR/SS:sm

Sincerely,



David S. Rhodes, Director  
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Environmental Management  
Los Alamos Field Office

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