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RON CURRY
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CERTIFIED MAIL -- RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 23, 2007

Ms. Patty Wagner
Manager
Sandia Site Office/NNSA
U.S. Department of Energy
P. O. Box 5400, MS 0184
Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400

Mr. Les E. Shephard
Vice President
Energy, Information and Infrastructure Surety
Sandia National Laboratories
P. O. Box 5800, MS 0724
Albuquerque, NM 87185

**RE: REPLACEMENT OF MIXED WASTE LANDFILL GROUNDWATER
MONITORING WELL MWL-BW1
SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES, EPA ID NM5890110518**

Dear Ms. Wagner and Mr. Shephard:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has become aware of the need to replace groundwater monitoring well MWL-BW1 at the Sandia National Laboratories' (SNL) Mixed Waste Landfill (MWL). According to the *Field Measurement Log For Groundwater Sample Collection*, dated April 4, 2006, the water level in MWL-BW1 has declined to the point that the sampling crew used de-ionized water to recover the April 2006 water sample from this well. Such a sampling practice, which has the potential to dilute any contaminants in groundwater samples, as well as significantly alter the general chemistry of the sample, is unacceptable to the NMED.

A spreadsheet provided to the NMED shows that the water level in MWL-BW1 (measured in January 2006) is only 2.29 feet above the bottom of the well screen. Because the well at this time cannot deliver sufficient water to properly obtain samples, it is no longer capable of providing representative water samples.

In accordance with Section VIII.A of the Order on Consent (April 24, 2004), if a well is any way unusable for its intended purpose, it must be replaced with an equivalent well. Thus, the U. S. Department of Energy and Sandia Corporation (the Permittees) shall replace well MWL-BW1.

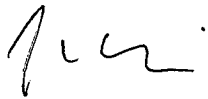
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The Permittees shall submit to the NMED within 30 days of receipt of this letter a plan for NMED review and approval describing how the well is to be replaced and a schedule for implementation of this work.

Because of problems associated with stainless-steel screened wells at the MWL (chromium and nickel detections), the replacement well shall be screened with polyvinyl (PVC) plastic casing. Although NMED agrees that the current cross-gradient location of well MWL-BW1 allows for the collection of representative background water-quality data, the Permittees shall replace the well at another location east and more directly upgradient of the MWL, consistent with normal practice for the installation of background wells. The Permittees shall install the well in a manner that avoids the use of drilling fluids or construction materials that have the potential to interfere with the reliability of hydrologic or analytical data obtained from the well. Finally, the well shall be installed in such a way that it is screened in the uppermost portion of the saturated zone.

The Permittees shall inform NMED within 30 days of any other wells at the MWL or elsewhere at SNL where current water levels have fallen to levels such that representative groundwater samples can not be obtained. Please contact William Moats of my staff at (505) 222-9551 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
W. Moats, NMED HWB
T. Fox, NMED OGC
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE OB
L. King, EPA-Region 6 (6PD-N)
J. Gould, DOE/NNSA/SSO, MS 0184
P. Freshour, SNL, MS 1087
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