



BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

DIANE DENISH
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RON CURRY
Secretary

JON GOLDSTEIN
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 12, 2008

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

Francis B. Nimick
Deputy Director
Nuclear Energy & Global Securities Technologies
Sandia National Laboratories
P.O. Box 5800, MS 0701
Albuquerque, NM 87185

**RE: LOCATION OF MONITORING WELLS MWL-MW7 AND MW8
SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES, EPA ID#NM5890110518
HWB-SNL-07-016**

Dear Ms. Wagner and Mr. Nimick:

On October 30, 2007, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conditionally approved the installation plan for the two subject replacement wells. These wells are to be located at the Sandia National Laboratories' Mixed Waste Landfill (MWL). In a letter dated December 5, 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) requested that the NMED reconsider the conditions of approval dealing specifically with the locations of the two replacement wells. The DOE expressed several concerns related to structural integrity and performance of the cover and monitoring wells, access and security, and conflicts with the its proposed Long-Term Monitoring and Maintenance Plan (LTMMP).

Since then, DOE and Sandia Corporation (collectively, the Permittees) have provided additional technical details for the NMED's consideration. In addition, the Permittees proposed as a compromise a change in the locations of the two wells such that they would be located further east from where they are shown in the LTMMP, but not quite as far east as directed by the NMED's letter of October 30, 2007.

The NMED believes that the compromise locations balance the need for the wells to be close to the western perimeter of the MWL, with the need to assure long-term integrity of

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the wells and the cover. NMED approves the Permittees' proposal to install three replacement wells (instead of two) west of the MWL; the third well is intended to replace existing well MW2. The wells shall be located in line with the existing MWL Soil-Moisture Monitoring Access Tubes. An installation plan for the third well shall be submitted to the NMED no later than March 31, 2008.

Because appreciable time has been expended to resolve this issue of well locations, the NMED is extending the due dates for well completion and reporting. The well installations shall now be concluded by June 30, 2008. The report documenting this work shall now be submitted to NMED by September 30, 2008.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact William Moats of my staff at (505) 222-9551.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
W. Moats, NMED HWB
T. Skibitski, NMED DOE-OB
L. King, EPA-6
P. Freshour, SNL MS 1089
J. Gould, DOE MS 0184
File: SNL 2008 and Reading