



**NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**



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Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

November 22, 2017

John C. Bretzke  
Division Leader  
Environmental Protection & Compliance Division  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, K490  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Cheryl L. Rodriguez  
Program Manager, FPD-II  
Environmental Management  
Los Alamos Field Office, A316  
3747 West Jemez Road  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

**RE: Approval of Amendment 2 – Additional Source (CrEX-4) for Multiple Activities Work Plan for the Treatment and Land Application of Groundwater from Mortandad and Sandia Canyons, DP-1793 Work Plan #5**

Dear Mr. Bretzke and Ms. Rodriguez:

On October 26, 2017, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) received *Amendment 2 – Additional Source (CrEX-4) for Multiple Activities Work Plan for the Treatment and Land Application of Groundwater for Mortandad and Sandia Canyons, DP-1793 Work Plan #5* (Work Plan) from DOE/LANS (Permittees). The Permittees' proposed Amendment 2 would add an additional groundwater source, extraction well CrEX-4.

The Work Plan is required by Condition 3 of Discharge Permit 1793 (DP-1793 or DP) for activities regulated under the DP and addresses the extraction, treatment, and land application of chromium contaminated groundwater from Mortandad and Sandia Canyons during calendar year 2017.

The proposed Amendment 2 does not suggest a change of discharge location, quantity, or quality. The maximum daily discharge volume of 350,000 gpd will remain as identified in Work Plan #5. The ion exchange treatment system will continue to remove chromium to concentrations below 45 µg/L, less than 90% of the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission groundwater standard of 50 µg/L.

The activities that produce these waters are conducted in coordination with, and as specified in, the *Interim Measures Work Plan for Chromium Plume Control*, dated May 26, 2015, and the *Work*

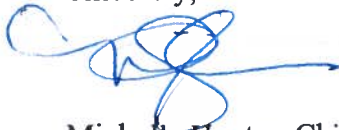
*Plan for Chromium Plume Center Characterization*, dated July 28, 2015. NMED's Hazardous Waste Bureau approved these plans in a letter dated October 15, 2015.

Groundwater discharges associated with the Work Plan shall be performed in accordance with the Amended Work Plan and are subject to all conditions of the DP. The Work Plan Amendment is hereby approved as submitted.

Approval of this Work Plan Amendment does not relieve the Permittees of the responsibility to comply with any other applicable federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations. This approval does not relieve the Permittees of liability should operations associated with this Work Plan result in actual pollution of ground or surface waters.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Pullen at (505) 827-2962. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Michelle Hunter, Chief  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

MH:sp

cc (e-version):

Shelly Lemon, NMED/SWQB  
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