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NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

*Hazardous Waste Bureau*

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RON CURRY  
Secretary

CINDY PADILLA  
Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

October 29, 2007

David Gregory  
Federal Project Director  
Los Alamos Site Office, Department of Energy  
528 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Mail Stop A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

David McInroy  
Remediation Services Deputy Project Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A992  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: NOTICE OF APPROVAL  
MORTANDARD CANYON GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL NETWORK  
EVALUATION, REVISION 1, LOA ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-GROUNDWATER MISC**

Dear Messrs. Gregory and McInroy:


The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Mortandad Canyon Groundwater Monitoring Well Network Evaluation, Revision 1* (hereafter, the Report) dated September 2007 and referenced by LA-UR-07-6435/EP2007-0590. NMED has reviewed the Report and hereby issues this Notice of Approval with the following direction.

The Permittees' assessment for Material Disposal Area (MDA) C indicates that the current monitoring network would detect 89% to 93% of potential contaminant plumes prior to their migration to PM-5 and the Laboratory boundary. However, additional monitoring wells must be installed in the regional aquifer such that the network is capable of detecting plumes emanating from MDA C with a degree of confidence or probability greater than 95%. Selection of a remedy at MDA C will in part depend on the availability of groundwater monitoring data collected from an appropriately designed monitoring network. The Permittees are currently implementing a

second phase of investigation to characterize contamination in the vadose zone at MDA C. In order to provide reliable groundwater monitoring data in a timely manner for the Corrective Measures Evaluation (CME) at MDA C, the Permittees must prepare a work plan for installing additional groundwater monitoring wells that meet the above criterion, and effectively detect and monitor contaminant plumes before they migrate to PM-5 or beyond the Laboratory boundary. The Permittees must submit this work plan to NMED for approval no later than December 31, 2007, and installation of the additional wells must be completed no later than October 31, 2008.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact John Young at (505) 476-6038 or Hai Shen at (505) 476-6039.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:hs

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB  
J. Young, NMED HWB  
K. Roberts, NMED HWB  
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file: Reading and LANL TA-3 (TA-50, Mortandad Canyon, MDA C, Groundwater)