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Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

November 21, 2011

George J. Rael
Assistant Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
3747 West Jemez Rd, MSA316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael J. Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL
EXTENSION REQUEST
TO SUBMIT THE WORK PLAN FOR WELL SCI-4
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-11-GW-MISC**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (collectively, the Permittees) document entitled *Request for Extension to Submit the Work Plan for Well SCI-4* (Work Plan) dated November 10, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0388.

The Permittees request the extension to submit the Work Plan due to the need to focus on removal of transuranic (TRU) waste from Technical Area (TA) 54 to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, located in Eddy County, New Mexico. The need to remove TRU waste stored at TA-54 is aligned with Governor Martinez' policy to prioritize groundwater and surface water protection and accelerate the removal of TRU waste stored at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Because Well SCI-4 will be located upgradient of the chromium plume beneath Sandia and Mortandad Canyons, the Permittees stated cause for the requested time extension is

acceptable. The submittal date for the Work Plan is hereby postponed from February 15, 2012 to **February 15, 2014**, as requested. NMED may re-evaluate the need for this extension based on the Permittees' progress in accelerating the removal of TRU waste from TA-54 or if ongoing monitoring indicates that the chromium plume threatens a water supply well or if contaminant concentrations are observed to be increasing. The Permittees must notify NMED, within 30 days of receipt of such information, should funds become available in the future that allow the Work Plan for Well SCI-4 to be submitted prior to February 15, 2014.

Please contact Dave Cobrain at (505) 476-6055 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kielling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
M. Dale, NMED HWB
J. Kulis, NMED HWB
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File: Reading and LANL 2011 – Groundwater, R-59 Installation