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JOHN A. SANCHEZ
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**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

RAJ SOLOMON, P.E.
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 9, 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 WITH MODIFICATION
DRILLING WORK PLAN FOR PERCHED INTERMEDIATE WELL SCI-3
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-MISC-GW**

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 *Drilling Work Plan for Perched Intermediate Well SCI-3* (Plan) dated January 28, 2011 and referenced by EP2011-0017.

NMED has reviewed the Plan and hereby issues this Approval with the following modification.

1. If perched groundwater in the Puye Formation is encountered, the Permittees must attempt to obtain a static water level measurement for the upper perched zone of saturation prior to advancing the boring to the targeted depth of deeper perched saturation in the Cerros del Rio basalt. If a reliable water-level measurement is obtained for the upper zone, then the measurement must be used in combination

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with water-level data from TA-53i and SCI-1 to improve the depiction of the potentiometric surface and groundwater flow direction for the upper intermediate aquifer.

The Permittees must complete intermediate well SCI-3 by **July 31, 2011**, as proposed in the Plan.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Michael Dale at (505) 661-2673.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
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File: Reading and LANL 2011 – Drilling Work Plan for SCI-3, LANL-MISC-GW