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NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau

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Cabinet Secretary

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Deputy Secretary

December 18, 2019

Elizabeth Lowes, Program Manager
Environmental, Safety and Health
N3B-Los Alamos
1200 Trinity Drive, Suite 150
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Arturo Duran, Compliance and Permitting Manager
Environmental Management
Los Alamos Field Office
P.O. Box 1663, MS M984
Los Alamos, NM 87545

RE: Approval of Sampling and Analysis Plan for Characterization of Soils in the Land Application Zones Used at the Chromium and RDX Project Area Under Discharge Permit 1793

Dear Ms. Lowes and Mr. Duran:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) received a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) and Newport News Nuclear BWTX Los Alamos (N3B), collectively DOE/N3B or the Permittees, on October 29, 2019. The SAP addresses the characterization of soils for possible contamination within designated land application zones under Discharge Permit 1793 (DP-1793). The SAP is required under the NMED approval of Work Plans #4 and #5, dated June 15, 2017, which requires samples be collected six months before the end of the discharge permit term (July 27, 2020).

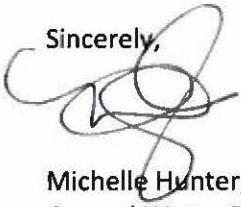
The SAP proposes to characterize concentrations of key constituents in soil within designated zones associated with the land application of treated groundwater originating from contaminant plumes of the chromium and Royal Demolition Explosive (RDX) project areas permitted under DP-1793. The soil samples will be collected from representative locations within each land application zone in Mortandad Canyon and the RDX project area. The soil samples will be analyzed for total chromium and RDX as applicable at a National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP)-accredited laboratory. Soils samples from Mortandad Canyon will also be characterized for perchlorate. The SAP satisfies the requirements of Work Plans #4 and #5 and is hereby approved.

Approval of this SAP 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 these Work Plans result in actual pollution of ground or surface waters.

Elizabeth Lowes and Arturo Duran
December 18, 2019
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If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Romero at (505) 827-0076. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MH', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Michelle Hunter, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

MH:ar

cc (e-version):

Steve Pullen, NMED/GWQB
Melanie Sandoval, NMED/GWQB
Shelly Lemon, NMED/SWQB
John Kieling, NMED/HWB
David Nickless, EM-LA
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