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**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 8:22 AM  
**To:** Pamela T. Maestas; Pierard, Kevin, NMENV  
**Cc:** 'king.laurie@epa.gov'; 'Raymond Martinez'; 'DINOC@santaclarapueblo.org'; Hunter, Michelle, NMENV; Pullen, Steve, NMENV; Romero, Andrew C, NMENV; Stringer, Stephanie, NMENV; Roose, Rebecca, NMENV; Catechis, Chris, NMENV; steve.yanicak@state.nm.us; Emily M. Day; Mark C. Everett; Danny Katzman; Kim Lebak; Joseph A. Legare; Dana Lindsay; Frazer R. Lockhart; Elizabeth Lowes; Christian T. Maupin; Patrick McGuire; Glenn Morgan; Bruce A. Robinson; Bradley Smith; Steve S. White; lee.bishop@em.doe.gov; Stephen Hoffman; thomas.johnson@srs.gov; David Nickless; cheryl.rodriguez@em.doe.gov; Hai Shen; 'emla.docs@em.doe.gov'; N3B Records; Kathy L. Walker; Kate Ellers - Adelante Consulting  
**Subject:** RE: Submittal of the DOE EM-LA Transition to Essential Mission Critical Activities Notification 3/31/20

Pamela  
 I've received the document.  
 Thanks

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**From:** Pamela T. Maestas <pamela.maestas@em-la.doe.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:53 PM  
**To:** Pierard, Kevin, NMENV <Kevin.Pierard@state.nm.us>  
**Cc:** Dhawan, Neelam, NMENV <neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us>; 'king.laurie@epa.gov' <king.laurie@epa.gov>; 'Raymond Martinez' <rmartinez@sanipueblo.org>; 'DINOC@santaclarapueblo.org' <DINOC@santaclarapueblo.org>; Hunter, Michelle, NMENV <Michelle.Hunter@state.nm.us>; Pullen, Steve, NMENV <steve.pullen@state.nm.us>; Romero, Andrew C, NMENV <AndrewC.Romero@state.nm.us>; Stringer, Stephanie, NMENV <Stephanie.Stringer@state.nm.us>; Roose, Rebecca, NMENV <Rebecca.Roose@state.nm.us>; Catechis, Chris, NMENV <Chris.Catechis@state.nm.us>; Yanicak, Steve, NMENV <Steve.Yanicak@state.nm.us>; Emily M. Day <Emily.Day@em-la.doe.gov>; Mark C. Everett <mark.everett@em-la.doe.gov>; Danny Katzman <danny.katzman@em-la.doe.gov>; Kim Lebak <Kim.Lebak@EM-LA.DOE.GOV>; Joseph A. Legare <joseph.legare@em-la.doe.gov>; Dana Lindsay <dana.lindsay@em-la.doe.gov>; Frazer R. Lockhart <frazer.lockhart@em-la.doe.gov>; Elizabeth Lowes <elizabeth.lowes@em-la.doe.gov>; Christian T. Maupin <Christian.Maupin@em-la.doe.gov>; Patrick McGuire <Patrick.McGuire@EM-LA.DOE.GOV>; Glenn Morgan <glenn.morgan@em-la.doe.gov>; Bruce A. Robinson <bruce.robinson@em-la.doe.gov>; Bradley Smith <Bradley.Smith@EM-LA.DOE.GOV>; Steve S. White <steve.white@em-la.doe.gov>; lee.bishop@em.doe.gov; Stephen Hoffman <stephen.hoffman@em.doe.gov>; thomas.johnson@srs.gov; David Nickless <david.nickless@em.doe.gov>; cheryl.rodriguez@em.doe.gov; Hai Shen <hai.shen@em.doe.gov>; 'emla.docs@em.doe.gov' <emla.docs@em.doe.gov>; N3B Records <n3brecords@EM-LA.DOE.GOV>; Kathy L. Walker <kathy.walker@em-la.doe.gov>; Kate Ellers - Adelante Consulting <kellers@adelanteconsulting.com>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Submittal of the DOE EM-LA Transition to Essential Mission Critical Activities Notification 3/31/20

Mr. Pierard,  
 On behalf of DOE/N3B, attached for submittal is the following:

- U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office Transition to Essential Mission Critical Activities Notification

Please respond to this email to acknowledge receipt. Let me know if you have any questions.  
 Thank you.

**Pamela T. Maestas**

**Regulatory Documentation Manager**

Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA)  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

March 31, 2020

EMLA-2020-1393-02-001

Mr. Kevin Pierard  
Bureau Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6313

Subject: U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office  
Transition to Essential Mission Critical Activities Notification

Dear Mr. Pierard:

The safety and health of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management workforce, including federal and contractor employees, is the top priority of the Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA). Accordingly, as a prudent measure in response to the current situation involving COVID-19 in New Mexico, EM-LA transitioned to Essential Mission Critical Activities (EMCA) status on March 24, 2020. Activities that support our cleanup mission have been limited to those necessary to ensure the safety of the public, our workers, and the environment. EMCA status is expected to remain in place until no longer needed to support COVID-19 protection measures.

EM-LA and Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC (N3B) are taking all reasonable actions to mitigate or prevent additional delays resulting from the EMCA status. To the extent possible, federal and contractor employees are teleworking in an effort to continue work. The only 2016 Consent Order on Consent (Consent Order) activity that remains operational is the ongoing maintenance of well packer systems. Groundwater monitoring and fieldwork associated with completing Consent Order Appendix B fiscal year (FY) 2020 milestones, early FY 2021 targets, and other work under the Consent Order has stopped. Specifically, the activities listed in Table 1 have ceased while EM-LA maintains its EMCA status.

Pursuant to the requirement in Section XXXII(D), Force Majeure, of the Consent Order, this letter provides the required written notice of a force majeure event from causes beyond the control of DOE associated with COVID-19. Once the EMCA status is lifted, EM-LA and N3B are fully operational, and access to the Los Alamos National Laboratory site is granted, EM-LA expects to return to fully operational status as quickly as practical. During EMCA, should it become apparent that a milestone extension is necessary because of the force majeure, EM-LA will identify the delay expected for the associated corrective action(s) and provide to the New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau (NMED-HWB) justification for the length of the delay, taking into account both the force majeure and sufficient time needed for recovery. In the meantime, EM-LA will provide NMED-HWB biweekly updates of impacts to milestones and targets.

Table 1. Consent Order Activities Ceased as a Result of EMCA Status

Activity	Date Operations Ceased	Comment
Groundwater Sampling and well maintenance (except for well packer maintenance)	3/18/2020	The program was preparing to start sampling the next watershed when the EMCA status was implemented.
Technical Area 21 Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building 21-257 decontamination and decommissioning</li> <li>• Investigation work</li> </ul>	3/24/2020	Shut down when EMCA status was implemented
Investigation work under the Southern Boundary Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chaquehui Canyon Aggregate Area</li> <li>• South Ancho Canyon Aggregate Area</li> <li>• Lower Water/Indio Canyon Aggregate Area</li> </ul>	3/24/2020	Shut down when EMCA status was implemented
Chromium Plume Control Interim Measure (IM)	3/25/2020	IM shut down when EMCA status was implemented
Chromium Plume Characterization	3/24/2020	R-42, R-28 and CrEX-3 redevelopment delayed when EMCA status was implemented
Groundwater Well R-72 Well Pad Construction	3/24/2020	Shut down when EMCA status was implemented
Surface Water Gage Station Activation	3/24/2020	Delayed when EMCA status was implemented

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Day at (505) 695-4243 (emily.day@em-la.doe.gov) or Cheryl Rodriguez at (505) 414-0450 (cheryl.rodriguez@em.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

**Cheryl L.  
Rodriguez**

Digitally signed by Cheryl L.  
Rodriguez  
Date: 2020.03.31 16:19:55  
-06'00'

*for* Arturo Q. Duran  
Compliance and Permitting Manager  
Environmental Management  
Los Alamos Field Office

CC (letter emailed):

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