



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor

Howie C. Morales  
Lt. Governor

NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313  
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030  
[www.env.nm.gov](http://www.env.nm.gov)



James C. Kenney  
Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruett  
Deputy Secretary

EMID-700840  
Rec'd 4/7/20

APR 07 2020

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Arturo Q. Duran  
Designated Agency Manager  
Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Los Alamos Field Office  
P.O. Box 1663 MS M984  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

RE: APPROVAL  
DRILLING FLUID ADDITIVE USE OPTIONS FOR WELL R-25  
WESTBAY SAMPLING SYSTEM REMOVAL  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-20-016

Dear Mr. Duran:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) *Drilling Fluid Additive Use Options for Well R-25 Westbay Sampling System Removal* (Request), dated March 2020, and referenced by EMLA-2020-1274-02-001. The document was received March 17, 2020.

DOE has requested approval from NMED to use a variety of drilling fluids to assist with the recovery of the Westbay sampling system from well R-25 as part of the process of plugging and abandoning the well. NMED and DOE discussed the use of drilling fluids during a January 28, 2020 meeting. NMED hereby approves the Request.

The type and use of drilling fluids is limited to what is described in the Request. Details describing the use of drilling fluids and recorded pressure responses at nearby wells R-25b, CdV-16-4ip, and CdV-16-1i must be reported in the monthly project status updates and quarterly reports required by NMED's *Approval, Request for Extension of Fiscal Year 2020 Appendix 8 Milestone #6, Westbay Well Plugging and Abandonment Completion Report for R-25* dated March 18, 2020.

Mr. Duran  
Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Neelam Dhawan (505) 476-6042.

Sincerely,

*Neelam Dhawan*

*for*

Kevin Pierard  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

Cc w/out Attachment:

N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
C. Krambis, NMED HWB  
M. Jojola, NMED HWB  
L. King, US EPA Region 6  
M. Hunter, NMED GWQB  
C. Rodriguez, EM-LA  
H. Shen, EM-LA  
R. Martinez, San Ildefonso Pueblo, NM  
D. Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo, NM  
C. Catechis, NMED-DOE-OB  
S. Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB  
E. Day, N3B  
M. Everett, N3B  
E. Lowes, N3B  
C. Maupin, N3B  
W. Alexander, N3B  
P. Maestas, N3B  
emla.docs@em.doe.gov

File: LANL 2000 and Reading, Approval R-25 Drilling Fluid Additives