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**NEW MEXICO
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CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 10, 2020

Arturo Q. Duran
Designated Agency Manager
Department of Energy-EM
P. O. Box 1663, MS M984
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: APPROVAL
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE EVALUATION OF CONDITIONS IN
THE REGIONAL AQUIFER AROUND WELL R-70
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID#NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-MISC**

Dear Mr. Duran:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) *Request for Extension of Assessment Report for the Evaluation of Conditions in the Regional Aquifer around Well R-70*, dated June 4, 2020 and referenced by EMLA-2020-1471-02-001. DOE is requesting an extension to submit the Assessment Report documenting the evaluation of conditions in the regional aquifer around well R-70 at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The report was required by the designated area managers' agreement documented in a letter from EM-LA to NMED dated October 28, 2019 and the report was due to NMED by June 17, 2020.

The *Assessment Work Plan for the Evaluation of Conditions in the Regional Aquifer Around Well R-70* was approved by NMED on April 14, 2020. DOE paused operations at R-70 in November 2019 because of the electrical safety issues observed at the site. The final monitoring well R-70 completion operations, necessary before the completion of the Assessment Report, were scheduled for March 2020. However, DOE went under Essential Mission Critical Activities (EMCA) status in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the scheduled R-70 restarting operations was not deemed to be mission critical by DOE. The final well completion operations at R-70 were postponed indefinitely on March 23, 2020 under EMCA.

DOE has proposed that the revised date for delivery of the Assessment Report be based on the collection of at least three (3) consecutive monthly samples from R-70 following the restart of field

activities and when sufficient observations of chromium concentration response following sustained operation at extraction well CrEX-5 is completed.

NMED hereby grants DOE's Request for Extension. DOE must notify NMED within three (3) days of EMCA status changes. Within 14 days of EMCA status change, DOE must provide, for NMED's approval, a new schedule for sampling monitoring well R-70 and the submittal of the Assessment Report.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Christopher Krambis at (505) 476-3078.

Sincerely,

**Kevin
Pierard**

Digitally signed by
Kevin Pierard
Date: 2020.06.10
14:08:49 -06'00'

Kevin M. Pierard, Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc:

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File: 2020 LANL, Approval Extension Request for R-70 Assessment Report