



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

EMLA-2022-BF049-02-001

February 25, 2022

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



Subject: Status Update on the Implementation of the Solid Waste Management Unit Assessment Work Plan for Middle DP Road Site

- References
1. N3B (Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC), March 25, 2021. "Solid Waste Management Unit Assessment Work Plan for Middle DP Road Site, Revision 1," document EM2021-0095, Los Alamos, New Mexico.
 2. NMED (New Mexico Environment Department), April 5, 2021. "Approval, Solid Waste Management Unit Assessment Work Plan for Middle DP Road Site, Revision 1," New Mexico Environment Department letter to A. Duran (EM-LA) from K. Pierard (NMED-HWB), Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Shean:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) and Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC (N3B) are submitting this letter to update the status of the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) Assessment Work Plan for the Middle DP Road (MDPR) site. During the investigation and cleanup of known contaminated debris locations, large areas with contaminated debris were discovered, requiring additional time to complete excavation and confirmatory sampling activities. The initial SWMU Assessment Work Plan (Reference 1) assumed 160 yd³ would be excavated; however, waste totaling 3344 yd³ was excavated. The initial potholing and removal of debris from the known sites was completed on October 20, 2021. Hand-auger sampling for the confirmation samples began in November and the subcontractor began hollow-core auger confirmation sampling in January 2022. The initial planned confirmation sampling was completed January 24, 2022. The confirmation sample results indicate elevated levels of one or more inorganic constituents (i.e., lead, copper) in a few locations outside the footprint of the excavated cleanup areas. Therefore, additional step-out sampling will be conducted to define nature and extent of contamination. After nature and extent are defined, EM-LA intends to perform any required cleanup work before the MDPR SWMU Assessment Report is submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).

Based on the MDPR SWMU Assessment Work Plan (Reference 1), the proposed delivery date of the SWMU Assessment Report was 6 months after completion of the fieldwork associated with the investigation. In NMED's approval letter (Reference 2), based on the assumed duration for fieldwork in the MDPR SWMU Assessment Work Plan, NMED stipulated that the MDPR SWMU Assessment Report be submitted no later than April 30, 2022. However, as a result of the need to conduct additional step-out confirmation sampling and site cleanup, the date for completion of fieldwork is later than NMED

originally estimated. Therefore, the MDPR SWMU Assessment Report will not be submitted by April 30, 2022, but will be submitted as originally proposed, within 6 months of the fieldwork completion date. This date will be determined based on the evaluation of the remaining analytical results to be received, the additional extent sampling to be conducted, and the remaining areas to be cleaned up.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Troy Thomson at (505) 309-1350 (troy.thomson@em-la.doe.gov) or Cheryl Rodriguez at (505) 414-0450 (cheryl.rodriguez@em.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

**ARTURO
DURAN**

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Arturo Q. Duran
Compliance and Permitting Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
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cc (letter emailed):

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