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January 9, 2022

Arturo Duran
Designated Agency Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Management
Los Alamos Field Office
1200 Trinity Drive, Suite 400
Los Alamos, NM 87544

RE: REVIEW
STARMER/UPPER PAJARITO CANYON AGGREGATE AREA PROGRESS REPORT
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA IS #NM0890010515
LANL-22-073

Dear Mr. Duran,

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy's (DOE) *Starmar/Upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area Progress Report* (Report) dated and received September 28, 2022, and referenced by EM2022-0564.

The Report was submitted to fulfill the 2016 Compliance Order of Consent (Consent Order) requirement for the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Milestone #17 of Appendix B, under the Starmar/Upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area Campaign in Pajarito Watershed. The Report summarizes the field investigations conducted by the DOE Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) and Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC (N3B). The Report presents the status of fieldwork implementation and site investigations completed to date for the Starmar/Upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area. Sampling was initiated at two Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs), SWMU 09-001(d) and SWMU 09-003(h), in the Starmar/Upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area.

SWMU 09-001(d) is a former firing site control building (former structure 09-0005), located at the Far Point firing site. Sampling at SWMU 09-001(d) began on September 7, 2022, and as of September 16, 2022, a total of 57 samples were collected from 20 locations.

SWMU 09-003(h) is identified as a former sump and associated inlet and outlet drainlines in former building 09-0003, a formal high explosives (HE) casting facility. Sampling at SWMU 09-003(h) began on August 26, 2022, and as of September 16, 2022, a total of 29 samples were collected from 12 locations.

SCIENCE | INNOVATION | COLLABORATION | COMPLIANCE

According to the *Investigation Work plan for Starmer/upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area, Revision 1*, 77 sites were to be investigated under the Pajarito Watershed Campaign in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 and an Investigation Report (IR) is due for the 2024 fiscal year. NMED notes that the field work did not start until August 2022, two months before the end of fiscal year 2022. Out of the 77 sites to be investigated for this Campaign, only two sites have been investigated.

NMED acknowledges that this Progress Report meets the requirements of FY 2022 Milestone #17 for the Pajarito Watershed Campaign-Starmer/Upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area, summarizing the fieldwork implementation and status of investigations in the Starmer/Upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area. NMED expects that even with a late start of field investigations in FY 2022, investigations of all 77 sites will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2023 and the IR will be submitted by the end of FY 2024 in accordance with the Appendix B of the 2016 Consent Order for FY 2022.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mitchell Schatz at (505) 690-5910.

Sincerely,

**Rick
Shean**
Rick Shean
Bureau Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

Digitally signed by
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