



May 23, 2023

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

**RE: APPROVAL  
2022 MONITORING REPORT AND 2023 MONITORING PLAN FOR LOS ALAMOS/PUEBLO  
WATERSHED SEDIMENT TRANSPORT PROJECT  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID#NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-23-027**

Dear Arturo Duran:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE)'s *2022 Monitoring Report and 2023 Monitoring Plan for the Los Alamos/Pueblo Watershed Sediment Transport Mitigation Project* (Report and Plan) dated and received on April 17, 2023, and referenced by EM2023-0142.

The DOE provided a plan in a pre-submittal meeting held on December 12, 2023. The DOE subsequently provided slides for NMED's consideration on February 16, 2023. On March 7, 2023, NMED provided general comments and approved the proposed maintenance activities to log-check dams in the spring season in 2023.

Summary of 2022 Monitoring at LA/P:

The DOE reported in Table 2.3-1 that they could only collect discharge from ten (10) storm events in the Los Alamos Pueblo Watershed in 2022 (see Table 2.3-1). The DOE was able to collect all four (4) samples for two (2) gaging stations, E039.1 and E059.5, in Pueblo Canyon. The DOE was not able to collect the required number of samples for 11 of the 13 gaging stations. Additionally, DOE was not able to collect any samples for four (4) gaging stations (i.e., E026, E030, E055.5, and E060.1). This lack of data is either due to the event being below the trip threshold (69 events), the event not being sampled (7 events) due to equipment issues, or due to the gaging stations not receiving any discharge (33 events).

NMED notes that only 21 discharge samples were collected in 2022, and of those, there were exceedances reported for 18 dioxin/furan and 19 total polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) samples.

The triennial vegetation survey showed that between 2019 and 2022 the total area volume of willows decreased by 5,093 square feet or by approximately 91% and that canary reed grass decreased by 166,022 square feet or by approximately 35%. The DOE reports that this decrease was likely due to feral cow predation. However, no corrective actions (e.g., re-planting or fencing) have been proposed. The DOE should continue to monitor the vegetative cover and propose a plan for corrective action, if vegetation doesn't recover.

NMED hereby approves the Report and the Plan. The next annual plan and report must be submitted to **NMED by no later than April 30, 2024.**

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Siona Briley by phone at (505) 690-5160 or by email at [Siona.Briley@env.nm.gov](mailto:Siona.Briley@env.nm.gov).

Sincerely,

**Rick Shean**  
Digitally signed by Rick Shean  
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Rick Shean  
Designated Agency Manager  
Director  
Resource Protection Division

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