



CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

November 3, 2023

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 ID #NM0890010515
LANL-23-069

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* (Progress Report) dated and received September 25, 2023, and referenced by EM2023-0582.

The Progress Report was submitted to fulfill the 2016 Compliance Order on Consent (Consent Order) requirement for the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Milestone #12 of Appendix B, under the Starmar/Upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area Campaign in Pajarito Watershed. The Progress 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). Sampling was completed or initiated at 27 solid waste management units (SWMUs) or areas of concern (AOCs) in Technical Area (TA) 8 and TA 9, and another SWMU in TA 40 for the Starmar/Upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area.

According to the approved *Investigation Work plan for Starmar/Upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area, Revision 1* (IWP) submitted in 2011, 77 sites were to be investigated under the Pajarito Watershed Campaign. Of those 77 sites, the investigation is delayed at 7 sites and investigation is deferred at 3 sites. NMED noted in the review letter sent on January 9, 2022 for the FY2022 *Starmar/Upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area Progress Report* that the fieldwork did not start until August 2022. Out of the sites to be investigated, a total of 30 sites have been completed or initiated, based on this Report.

NMED acknowledges that this Progress Report meets the requirements of FY 2023 Milestone #12 under the Pajarito Watershed Campaign. NMED expects that the investigations of the remaining sites required by the IWP will be completed and the Investigation Report will be submitted by the date specified in the finalized FY 2024 Appendix B.

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

Sincerely,

**Rick
Shean**



Digitally signed by Rick Shean

Date: 2023.11.03 12:53:53

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Rick Shean

Designated Agency Manager, Hazardous Waste Bureau
Director, Resource Protection Division, NMED

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