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

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NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau

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August 29, 2024

Mr. JohnDavid Nance, Hazardous Waste Bureau Chief
Designated Agency Manager
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6313

Subject: Response to the New Mexico Environment Department's Approval and Comments 2023 Sandia Wetland Performance Report, Revision 1, Los Alamos National Laboratory, EPA ID# NM0890010515, HWB-LANL-24-019, Dated July 18, 2024

Dear Mr. Nance:

Enclosed please find the "Response to the New Mexico Environment Department's Approval and Comments 2023 Sandia Wetland Performance Report, Revision 1, Los Alamos National Laboratory, EPA ID# NM0890010515, HWB-LANL-24-019, Dated July 18, 2024." These responses directly address the comments of the New Mexico Environment Department on the report.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Erickson at (505) 309-1349 (michael.erickson@em-la.doe.gov) or Arturo Duran at (505) 257-7907 (arturo.duran@em.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

ARTURO DURAN

Digitally signed by ARTURO DURAN
Date: 2024.08.28 10:10:03 -06'00'

Arturo Q. Duran
Compliance and Permitting Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Environmental Management
Los Alamos Field Office

Enclosure(s):

1. Two hard copies with electronic files:
   Response to the New Mexico Environment Department's Approval and Comments 2023 Sandia Wetland Performance Report, Revision 1, Los Alamos National Laboratory, EPA ID# NM0890010515, HWB-LANL-24-019, Dated July 18, 2024 (EM2024-0601)

cc (letter and enclosure[s] emailed):
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Raymond Martinez, San Ildefonso Pueblo, NM
Dino Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo, NM
Anne Laurent, Los Alamos County, Los Alamos, NM (2 copies)
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB
Justin Ball, NMED-GWQB
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Ricardo Maestas, NMED-HWB
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Public Reading Room (EPRR)
PRS website

Response to the New Mexico Environment Department's Approval and Comments
2023 Sandia Wetland Performance Report, Revision 1,
Los Alamos National Laboratory, EPA ID# NM0890010515, HWB-LANL-24-019,
Dated July 18, 2024

INTRODUCTION

To facilitate review of this response, the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) comments are included verbatim. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office responses follow each NMED comment.

NMED Comment

1. ***Section 2.2.2 Alluvial System Monitoring, page 8:***

   DOE Statement: "The final transect of wells SWA-4-10 (SCPZ-10), SWA-4-11 (SCPZ-11B), and SWA-4-12 (SCPZ-12/SWA-4) have responded greater to the rewatering that has occurred at the eastern terminus of the wetland post-installation of the GCS."

   NMED Comment: Please clarify how the well has responded greater to the rewatering.

DOE Response

1. This statement indicates that the water level is maintained at a sufficiently high level throughout the year to prevent the wetland from drying out, especially compared with the upper transects. In future submittals, if still applicable, the statement will be changed to "The transect data of wells SWA-4-10 (SCPZ-10), SWA-4-11 (SCPZ-11B), and SWA-4-12 (SCPZ-12/SWA-4) show that water levels remained above 7205 ft, high enough to sustain obligate wetland vegetation and maintain reducing conditions within the alluvial groundwater (Figure 3.1-3)."

NMED Comment

2. ***NMED is providing the following minor typographical edits separately via email, with the intent that these items can be addressed for future submittals.***

DOE Response

2. The typographical edits included with the comment will be addressed in future submittals of the report as applicable.