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National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316
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Date: November 7, 2006
Refer to: EP2006-0890

Mr. James Bearzi
NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

**SUBJECT: SECOND RESPONSE TO NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT'S NOTICE OF DISAPPROVAL AND SUPPLEMENT TO
NOTICE OF DISAPPROVAL FOR THE "INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR
MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA (MDA) G, CONSOLIDATED UNIT
54-013(B)-99, AT TECHNICAL AREA 54" LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL
LABORATORY, DATED SEPTEMBER 13, 2006**

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

In its September 13, 2006, letter, the NMED points out that vapor phase tritium concentrations in borehole 54-01111 increased from 26,500 pCi/L at 40 ft to 1.58×10^8 at 139 ft depth. Borehole 54-01111 is down gradient of active tritium disposal shafts 309, 311, and 313 (see attached figure). In 2006, the Laboratory disposed of over 100,000 curies of tritium in shafts 309, 311, and 313 and an additional 100,000 curies in shafts 363 and 367, located in the north-central portion of Area G.

Because active tritium disposal will continue in this area until Area G is closed, the Department of Energy has directed the Laboratory to determine whether the trend in increased tritium extends to the basalt. The Laboratory proposes to extend the depth of borehole 54-24397 (which is approximately 100 ft from borehole 54-01111 to the basalt and approximately 225 ft below ground surface) and install monitoring equipment to sample for tritium. The results of the monitoring will be reported to NMED in the update to the MDA G investigation report.

Los Alamos National Security is happy to meet with your staff if you have questions on tritium disposal or monitoring. Please call John Hopkins at (505) 667-9551 (johnhopkins@lanl.gov) or Frank Bosiljevac at (505) 845-5746 (fbosiljevac@doeal.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Andrew Phelps, Associate Director
Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,

David Gregory, Federal Project Director
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Site Office

Mr. James Bearzi
EP2006-0890

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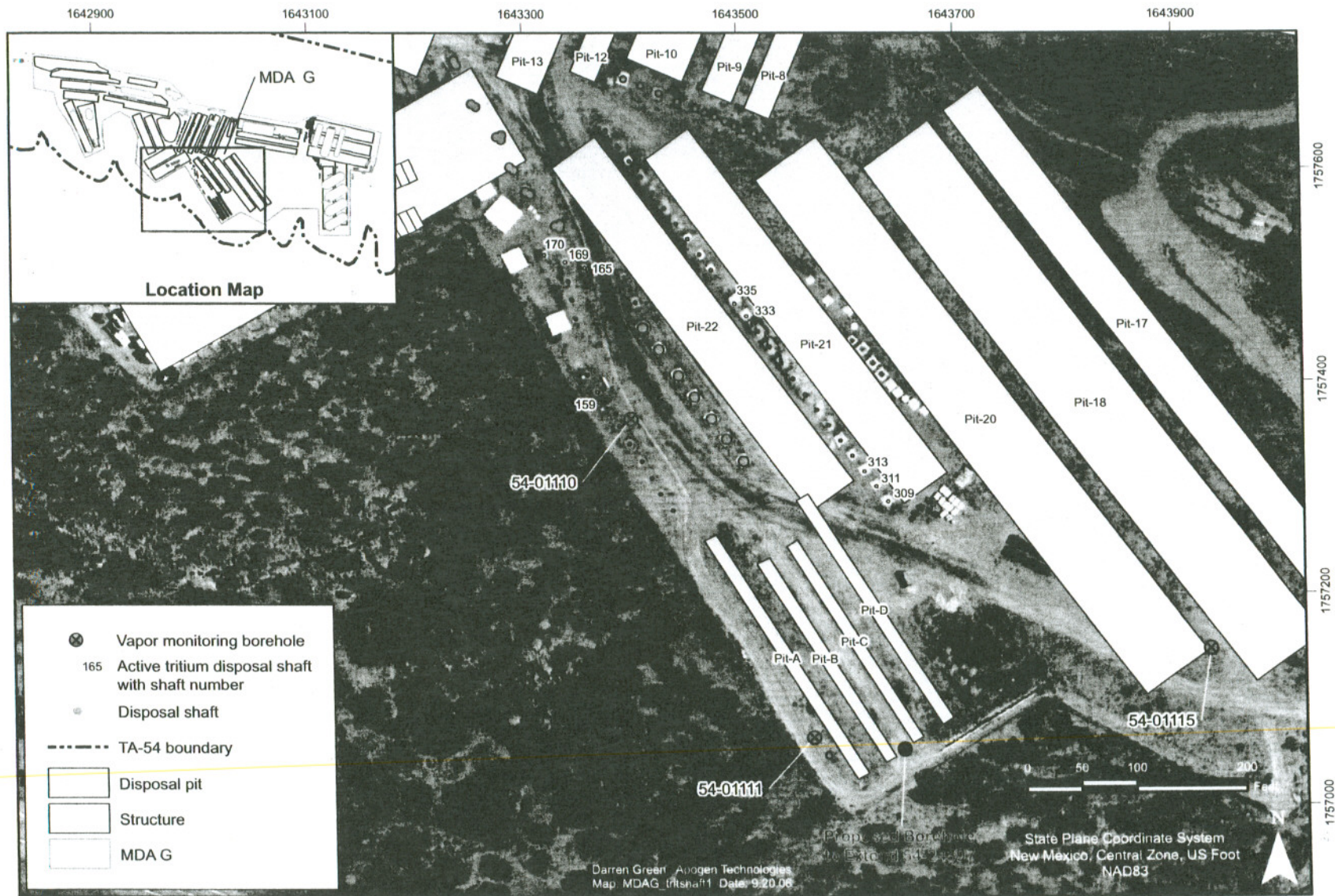
November 7, 2006

AP/DG/JH/ew

Enclosure: 1) Map of active tritium disposal shafts and proximal vapor monitoring boreholes in the south central

Cy:(w/enc)

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EP-CAP File, MS M992
RPF, MS M707
IRM-RMMSO, MS A150



Active tritium disposal shafts and proximal vapor monitoring boreholes in the south-central portion of MDA G