



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

June 28, 2016

John Hall, Mining Act Team Leader  
Mining Environmental Compliance Section  
Ground Water Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Subject: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management Response to New Mexico Environment Department Comments on the Bluewater Site Status Report

Dear Mr. Hall:

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (DOE-LM) received comments on the *Site Status Report: Groundwater Flow and Contaminant Transport in the Vicinity of the Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site* (November 2014) from the Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in a letter dated August 31, 2015. DOE-LM thanks GWQB for reviewing the document and providing comments.

The referenced Site Status Report is under review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). When NRC comments are received, DOE-LM will evaluate and respond to NRC and NMED comments concurrently.

In the interim, DOE-LM continues to sample the Bluewater site monitoring wells on a semi-annual basis. Samples are analyzed for the constituents required by the Bluewater site Long-Term Surveillance Plan in addition to constituents recommended by NMED. Furthermore, NMED is supporting DOE-LM by sampling offsite San Andres aquifer wells downgradient of the Bluewater site; the first sampling event occurred in June 2015, and the second event is scheduled for this summer.

DOE-LM fully supports NMED's desire for the availability and accessibility of groundwater data in the Grants Mining District. Laboratory results of groundwater samples collected at DOE-LM disposal sites (Ambrosia Lake, Bluewater, and L-Bar) are available to the public at the following website: <http://energy.gov/lm/office-legacy-management>. Bluewater-specific groundwater data can be accessed through this link or by going directly to <http://www.lm.doe.gov/Bluewater/Sites.aspx>. The Site Status Report evaluated data obtained from many sources in the Grants-Bluewater Valley region. DOE-LM will provide NMED with the sources of groundwater data, if desired.



John Hall

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If you have any questions, please call me at (970) 248-6550. Please send any correspondence to:

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Legacy Management  
2597 Legacy Way  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah L. Barr" followed by the date "6/28/16". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Deborah L. Barr  
Site Manager

cc:

S. Jetter, NMED

J. Parrott, NRC

R. Bush, DOE-LM (e)

A. Gil, DOE-LM (e)

J. Carman, Navarro (e)

D. Johnson, Navarro (e)

File: BLU 045.15 (rc-grand junction)