



**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

January 24, 2018

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Deputy Director  
Mail Stop T8F5  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

40-8902

Subject: U.S. Department of Energy Actions Regarding Bluewater, New Mexico, Disposal Site Groundwater Contamination

To Whom it May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify actions that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) is conducting to address stakeholder questions and comments provided in the September 14, 2017, Well Prohibition Public Meeting held in Grants, New Mexico, and the December 4, 2017 letter submitted by the Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance. DOE is committed to protecting public health and the environment and understanding the extent and impacts of the Bluewater groundwater plumes.

DOE is in the process of reevaluating the Rio San Jose alluvial aquifer and the San Andres/Glorieta (SAG) aquifer, including updating the uranium plume map for the SAG aquifer with recent groundwater data. The current evaluation will enable DOE to better understand the nature and extent of the plumes and determine the appropriate actions moving forward.

Additionally, DOE is committed to keeping the public informed of current site conditions and recommends holding another interagency public meeting during the summer of 2018. As stated in the public meeting, DOE will work in partnership with NMED to provide sampling and analysis support for members of the public who have concerns about their well water quality. DOE is also pursuing outreach opportunities with the Acoma and Laguna Pueblos, and provided them with presentations and site tours in fall 2017.

DOE appreciates the continued efforts of the NRC in coordinating between the different agencies involved and interfacing with stakeholders. Please call me at (970) 248- 6550 if you have any questions. Please send any correspondence to:

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

Sincerely,

*Bernadette Tsosie*

NMSSDI

Bernadette Tsosie, Site Manager  
Office of Legacy Management



cc:

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Sites\BLU\1-19-18 BLU DOE Actions re GW Contamination (NRC)