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**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 16, 2013

Radel Bunker-Farrah
Chief, Environmental Office
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
White Sands Test Facility
P.O. Box 20
Las Cruces, NM 88004-0020

Attention of: RE-12-151

**RE: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATIONS
EVALUATION OF THE 600 AREA
GROUNDWATER MONITORING NETWORK
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)
JOHNSON SPACE CENTER (JSC) WHITE SANDS TEST FACILITY (WSTF)
DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
EPA ID #NM08800019434
HWB-NASA-12-019**

Dear Ms. Bunker-Farrah:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the NASA WSTF (Permittee) *Evaluation of the 600 Area Groundwater Monitoring Network*, (Report) dated October 2012 and received October 31, 2012. NMED has completed its review of the Report and hereby approves the document subject to the following modifications.

Modifications:

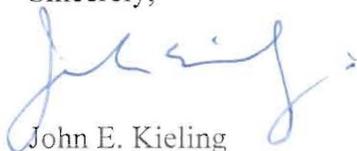
1. Table 1, Summary of 600 Area Groundwater Monitoring Network, pages 6 through 8 inclusive:

NMED Comment: Three wells are recommended for plugging and abandonment by the Permittee (600-C-210, 600-D and NASA 7). In addition, three other wells (100-D-176, 600-C-173 and BLM-3-182) are recommended for detailed evaluation due to conflicting video log reports or the presence of significant corrosion and rust. The Permittee has not indicated a specific time-frame for abandonment or evaluation of the wells but has suggested that the results of the upcoming (early 2013 commencement) dye tracer testing should be considered in terms of deciding whether or not additional monitoring wells are needed in the 600 Area. Provide a letter to NMED which includes a proposed schedule (based on the predicted length of time needed for completion of tracer testing) for plugging and abandonment of 600-C-210, 600-D and NASA 7 and evaluation of 100-D-176, 600-C-173 and BLM-3-182. Provide the proposed schedule by **January 31, 2013**.

2. Table 1, Summary of 600 Area Groundwater Monitoring Network, page 7:

NMED Comment: The entries in the "Well Condition" and "Notes Relative to Well Condition" columns of the table for well NASA 2 appear to be incorrect since a well that has a 300 foot screened interval would not be appropriate to monitor perched water near the 600 Area Closure. By **January 31, 2013**, provide a corrected page 7, if NMED's observation is correct.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Daniel Comeau at (505) 476-6043.
Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
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