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MEMORANDUM

September 2, 2008

TO: BDD Board

SUBJECT: Report on Final Conclusions by NMED and the BDD Board's Representatives Regarding the Investigations of LANL Legacy Contaminants in the Abandoned Channel of the Rio Grande Upstream from the BDD Diversion Location

NMED has released its final report entitled *Los Alamos National Laboratory Legacy Contaminant Study at the Buckman Direct Diversion*, August 2008. You received an initial report regarding the results of this study at the June 2008 BDD Board meeting. That report was based on the characteristics of the sediments encountered in 11 boreholes as we interpreted these results to be conclusive, even without the laboratory results.

The final report is included in your packet. The summaries at the beginning and at the end of the report are self-explanatory. The bottom line is that we do not expect BDD construction to disturb the discrete package of sediments that filled the abandoned river channel during the 1950s and 1960s and that contain elevated but low levels of LANL legacy contaminants. The sediments in the area to be disturbed by construction contain contaminants that are either below the limit of detection or are indistinguishable from background. Canada Ancha is the origin of the tributary alluvial sediments in the construction area, not the Rio Grande.

Sandy Hurlocker, EIS manager, participated in this work. We expect that submission of this report will fulfill the Record of Decision requirement #6, page 6, which is quoted below:

6. Before construction occurs in the near-river environment, applicants must coordinate with the NMED, the LANL or any other appropriate entity to obtain the necessary analytical support. Specifically, before digging in the river area, conduct tests on surface and buried sediment in the route and if concentrations of radiological contaminants are found that exceed worker safety levels, the route would be modified to avoid such exposure. This measure will avoid exceeding health/safety or other standards.

The BDD Board arranged and paid for drilling services, approximately \$4,000. NMED provided expert professional services of its staff and paid for the laboratory analysis, approximately \$15,000. LANL's contributions included an unacceptable initial version of the sampling plan and some consultation by staff scientists.

Please contact Rick Carpenter if you have any questions regarding this matter.