



NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



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RYAN FLYNN  
Cabinet Secretary  
BUTCH TONGATE  
Deputy Secretary

September 25, 2014

Jalena Dayvault, Site Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Legacy management  
2597 Legacy Way  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

**RE: Issuance of the Conditional Certificate of Completion for the Gnome-Coach Site  
(Surface and Shallow Subsurface) near Carlsbad, NM, VRP Site No. 53043003**

Dear Ms. Dayvault:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is pleased to provide you with a Conditional Certificate of Completion for the above referenced site. The Certificate documents that remediation activities have been successfully completed in accordance with the Voluntary Remediation Agreement for this site. It also specifies on-going requirements that must be fulfilled and maintained.

NMED congratulates you on the successful completion of this project, and has appreciated working with you through the Voluntary Remediation Program. If you have any further questions, please contact Pam Homer, Program Manager of the Remediation Oversight Section, at (505) 827-2754.

Sincerely,



Jerry Schöppner, Chief  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

Enclosures: Conditional Certificate of Completion, VRP Site No. 53043003

cc: Pam Homer, NMED-GWQB  
Michelle Hunter, NMED-GWQB  
VRP Chrono File

**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION PROGRAM**

***CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION***

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, §74-4G-1, *et seq.*, the Voluntary Remediation Act, and the Voluntary Remediation Regulations (20.6.3 NMAC), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has determined that the participant, **U.S. Department of Energy – Office of Legacy Management** (DOE-LM), has successfully complied with the Voluntary Remediation Agreement and that site conditions meet applicable standards for the **Gnome-Coach Site – Surface and Shallow Subsurface, VRP Site No. 53043003**, as of the execution date of this Certificate for the tract of land and for the environmental conditions described in Exhibit A, attached hereto.

This Certificate remains valid only if the following requirements of post-completion monitoring, engineering controls, remediation systems, post-closure care, and/or affirmation of future non-residential use are satisfactorily implemented and maintained:

1. The land use shall remain restricted to ranching or to a land use posing an equivalent or lesser human exposure risk. NMED shall be notified of any proposed change in land use and provided documentation of the associated risk.
2. Drilling, excavating or other activities that would disturb materials deeper than 20 feet below the surface shall be prohibited, except for DOE-LM activities necessary for ground water investigation and remediation.
3. The integrity of the concrete cap over the Gnome-Coach shaft shall be maintained. No drilling or excavation at any depth within 40 lateral feet of the cap shall be permitted. Signs shall be posted around this area to warn against excavation and drilling.
4. The locations of buried debris and salt muck shall be provided to the federal agency responsible for surface administration of the site.
5. Signs shall be posted around the perimeter of the site and at road crossings to notify the public of site restrictions.
6. NMED and its representatives shall be provided reasonable access to the site and relevant records to evaluate whether the requirements specified herein are being satisfactorily maintained and continue to be effective.

DOE-LM shall incorporate specific actions into its Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Plan for the site to ensure that these requirements are implemented effectively. A copy of the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Plan and any subsequent updates shall be provided to NMED.

NMED shall be notified prior to the termination of DOE-LM responsibility for the site so that the requirements of this Certificate may be reviewed and revised as appropriate for a changed ownership or management regime.

EXECUTED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014



Secretary or Designee  
New Mexico Environment Department

*Attachment: Exhibit A, Legal Description and Environmental Conditions*

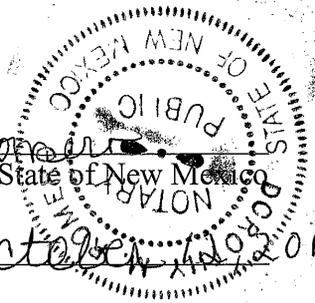
STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF SANTA FE

BEFORE ME, on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, personally appeared Gerard A. Schreppner known to me to be the person and agent of said department whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and he acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and in the capacity therein expressed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014

Dorothy M. Rosser  
Notary Public in and for the State of New Mexico

My commission expires: October 14, 2014



**Conditional Certificate of Completion Exhibit A  
Legal Description and Environmental Conditions**

New Mexico Environment Department  
Voluntary Remediation Program

**Gnome-Coach Site – Surface and Shallow Subsurface**  
VRP Site No. 53043003

**I. Legal Description**

The Gnome-Coach site consists of approximately 640 acres comprising Township 23S, Range 30E, Section 34.

**II. Environmental Conditions**

The Conditional Certificate of Completion to which this exhibit is attached applies to the following environmental conditions:

Surface and subsurface soils to a depth of 20 feet.

In 1961 a 3-kiloton nuclear explosive was detonated at a depth of 1,184 feet below the surface at this site. A portion of the gases vented from the emplacement hole into the atmosphere and were carried in a northwest direction. Post-test drilling and removal of contaminated subsurface material resulted in contamination of surface and shallow subsurface soils by radionuclides, metals, and petroleum hydrocarbons. Surface cleanup activities occurred during 1968-69, 1977-1979, and 2003.

The surface and shallow subsurface environmental conditions are further described in the following documents:

- U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office.  
*Surface Corrective Action Investigation Report for the Gnome-Coach Site, New Mexico.*  
May 2004.
- U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office.  
*Voluntary Remediation Program Completion Report, Gnome-Coach Site, New Mexico.*  
December 2005.