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Statement from Kay Scherer Interim Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Little Valley Escaped Prescribed Fire Review Update November 29, 2016

“On October 26, 2016, a statement and my letter requesting an Escaped Prescribed Fire Review Team for the Little Valley prescribed burn were released. Subsequent to that request and as reported, a multi-agency team from across the country began the on-site portion of its review commencing November 10, 2016, and continuing through November 21, 2016. In response to inquiries during the on-site portion of the review, team leaders indicated possible completion of the review team’s report by mid-January 2017.

My statement today is to clarify the likely timeframe for report delivery. I have received, as requestor of the review, communication from the co-leader of the review team. He has indicated that it is more likely that the report will now be finalized and ready by mid-February 2017. This is due to the fact that the vast majority of the team has, in their regular work capacities, been called up to assist with the significant wildfire activity that is impacting the southeastern United States. These critical assignments will understandably delay the team’s ability to deliver its report by the team’s original goal of mid-January. As stated above, the review team’s revised goal is a mid-February delivery.”