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PETER MAGGIORE
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DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 6, 1999

Dear RCRA-Regulated Facilities:

The Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has developed several risk assessment guidance papers. These papers have been developed to provide the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulated community direction in understanding what is expected in documents submitted to HRMB for those sites for which risk assessment is being considered. These papers have been through a thorough review both internal and external to NMED, including review by the RCRA-regulated community and various stakeholders. Many comments were received during these recent review periods, and most were incorporated into these papers.

Most of the comments submitted were technical in nature and were appropriately provided by the facilities' risk assessors and other technical staff. HRMB is now providing these papers again for review particularly for facilities to assess the usefulness of them. HRMB suggests this review be conducted by the site or project decision-makers at the facilities. Comments should focus on how the papers can be improved to facilitate decision making at specific sites and development of cogent recommendations from technical staff to decision-makers.

Recently, HRMB provided the *Guidance for Assessing Ecological Risks Posed by Chemicals: Screening-Level Ecological Risk Assessment* for external review; comments were due October 8, 1999. This date has been extended so that in addition to technical comments, the issue of usability may be addressed for this document.

Any recommendations and comments on all the documents, including the eco-risk document, must be received by HRMB no later than November 3, 1999. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter please contact John Kieling at (505) 827-1558 or at the address above. HRMB would also like to thank those facilities and individuals that provided comments to us regarding these and other position papers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Bearzi".

James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

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