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COPY

March 6, 2000

Dear RCRA-Regulated Facilities and Stakeholders:

The Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is pleased to issue the following risk assessment guidance papers:

- *Risk-Based Decision Process Strategy*
- *Determination of Extent of Contamination*
- *Application of Inorganic Background Values in the Risk Assessment Process*
- *Use of Tolerance Intervals for Determining Inorganic Background Concentrations*
- *Risk-based Remediation of Polychlorinated Biphenyls at RCRA Corrective Action Sites*

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 stakeholders. We believe the use of these papers will not only facilitate development of risk assessments, but also expedite the review process by HRMB.

NMED has received many comments regarding *Guidance for Assessing Ecological Risks Posed by Chemicals: Screening-Level Ecological Risk Assessment* these comments are being reviewed and will be considered for incorporation into this paper. We intend to finalize and issue this paper later this month.

HRMB would like to thank those facilities and individuals that provided comments to us regarding these and other position papers. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter please contact John Kieling at (505) 827-1558 extension 1012 or at the address above.

Sincerely,

James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau