



Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

DEC 21 1995

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Follow-up Information on Site Treatment Plan Issues, December 15, 1995 NMED Meeting

The purpose of this letter is to confirm our discussions of the December 15, 1995 meeting, and to notify you of our intention to submit a revision of the Site Treatment Plan (STP), Compliance Plan Volume (CPV) for your review and approval, as requested by you and James Seubert during this meeting. The following topics were discussed:

1. We presented a letter requesting that you begin discussions with the State of Tennessee as soon as possible facilitating our ability to begin shipment of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Low-Level Mixed Waste (LLMW) to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for treatment. We also asked that you contact other states having Department of Energy (DOE) facilities to which we would like the option of sending LANL LLMW. Our concern is the need to raise the issues of state agreement for shipment/treatment of waste. We will support you in these discussions in whatever way you feel is appropriate.
2. We requested a change to the CPV allowing DOE and LANL to more readily pursue commercial and DOE treatment and disposal options for waste streams currently destined for on-site treatment. We believe that off-site treatment capabilities are constantly expanding, providing us an opportunity to work off wastes more expeditiously than is currently provided for in the STP, given our steadily decreasing budgets. Use of off-site options without prior approval through the revision process was discussed in DOE's comments on the August 1995 draft CPV.

In our meeting, we suggested that the text in the CPV be revised to allow us to use off-site options without first undergoing the full revision process. A proposed revision containing alternate language implementing this approach will be presented to you in writing in the near future for your approval. This revision request will contain the information required under Section X, "Revisions," of the Federal Facility Compliance Order (FFCO).

3. We will be transmitting a letter to you in the near future proposing to remove 1,228 drums of Technical Area 50-1 treatment sludges from management as LLMW subject to the STP. We believe 1,228 of the 1,288 containers in this treatment group have been incorrectly



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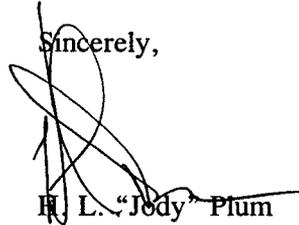
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managed as LLMW; and that in fact these are nonhazardous low-level radioactive wastes, and should henceforth be managed as such. We will be requesting their removal from the CPV, as currently they are "Covered Wastes." Sixty (60) drums will continue to be subject to the STP. Additionally, DOE has developed an approach to removing hazardous wastes from the FFCO when they are found not to contain a radioactive component. This will also be transmitted to you in the near future for the first such group of wastes.

4. To facilitate making revisions, we requested an electronic copy of the STP and Order, which we have received. Proposed revisions will be provided in both electronic and hard copy.

We appreciate the opportunity to have met with you to discuss our comments and concerns. We are available to discuss this information, or the concerns raised in our comments and in our meeting, with you at any time. If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 665-5042, or Paul Schumann at (505) 667-5840.

Sincerely,



H. L. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment and Projects

LAAMEP:2JP-022

cc:
J. Seubert
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New Mexico Environment Department
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