



GARY E. JOHNSON
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State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
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MARK E. WEIDLER
SECRETARY

EDGAR T. THORNTON, III
DEPUTY SECRETARY

November 22, 1996

H. L. Plum
STP Project Manager
Office of Environments and Projects
Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Kenneth Hargis
STP Project Manager
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, NM 87445

RE: Correction of November 20, 1996 transmittal.

Dear Mr. Plum and Mr. Hargis:

After the November 20, 1996 letter from Janice Archuleta, New Mexico Environment Department, Hazardous and Radioactive Material Bureau (concerning the reclassification of "soils with heavy metals" from Section 3.1.2 of the Site Treatment Plan Compliance Plan Volume [STP/CPV] of the Federal Facilities Compliance Order [FFCO] October 4, 1995), had been sent to the you (H.L. Plum and Kenneth Hargis), it was later realized that the "RE:" concerning the subject of the letter had not been changed from a previous letter, used as a boiler plate. Attached is how the letter should have appeared originally and is a replacement for the November 20, 1996 letter; please note that the date has been changed in addition to the subject line.

If there are any questions concerning this or other FFCO matters, please call me at (505) 827-1558.

Sincerely,

Janice Archuleta
Janice Archuleta

ja

enclosure

cc: Benito Garcia, Chief, Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
Stu Dinwiddie, Program Manager, RCRA Permits Management
Susan McMichael, OGC



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RE: Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Request to Reclassify "soil with heavy metals" in Section 3.1.2 of the Site Treatment Plan Compliance Plan Volume (STP/CPV) of the Federal Facilities Compliance Order (FFCO) October 4, 1995.

Dear Mr. Plum and Mr. Hargis:

Department of Energy (DOE) and University of California at Los Alamos National Laboratory (UC/LANL) submitted a letter to New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), dated October 18, 1996. This letter addressed a treatability group in Section 3.1.2 (titled Off-site Treatment by Stabilization or Macroencapsulation) of the STP/CPV of the Federal Facilities Compliance Order. From Section 3.1.2, the specific treatability group in the letter was "soil with heavy metals". Of the 59 items or drums, a total of 47 drums have been recharacterized and DOE and UC/LANL determined that they should be no longer considered as Low-Level Mixed Waste, but only as Low-Level Radioactive Waste.

Of the 47 drums being considered to be reclassified only seven drum samples have been taken. The volume of the seven samples is but a fraction of the total volume of those seven drums, which is a very small percentage of the entire volume of waste to be considered reclassified. Other considerations for discussion are the fact that of the 47 drums to be reclassified, the soil came from two different sites, with original designations of three different types of contamination. Prior to possible acceptance of the reclassification proposal, more information must be submitted regarding the samples. Below are listed some questions which should be answered:

- Are the samples from the drums representative of the entire drum, e.g., is it a homogeneous sample? If so, how was this obtained?
- Are the samples from the drums sampled representative of the entire group or a subset of drums to be recharacterized?

H.L. Plum
K. M. Hargis
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- Is there sampling data from the sites where the soil was originally which can be used to support the laboratory analysis of the samples from the drums? Is there previous data which supports or contradicts laboratory sampling from the drums?
- What methods or protocols were followed to arrive at a drum sampling number? (This information should be submitted with the request or referenced and made available for review by NMED.)

Please provide more information for the reclassification of these drums categorized as "soils with heavy metals". The submittal of information to include only seven laboratory samples, is insufficient for Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) to determine reclassification of the presently considered mixed waste in the 47 drums. However, it is possible that more information exists for these drums because they were generated from an environmental remediation project. Other additional information relating to the drums other than those specifically addressed above which would provide an argument for sample representability and acceptability should be provided to HRMB.

If there are any questions concerning this or other FFCO matters, please call me at (505) 827-1558.

Sincerely,



Janice Archuleta

ja

cc: Benito Garcia, Chief, Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
Stu Dinwiddie, Program Manager, RCRA Permits Management
Susan McMichael, OGC