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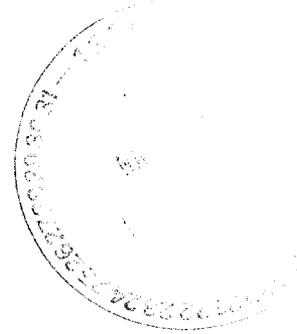


Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

APR 30 1997

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, New Mexico 87505



Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Completion of Permit Application Resubmittal, Activity 3.1.6A in the Site Treatment Plan (STP)

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) December 18, 1996 letter regarding our notification of completion of activities set forth in the Federal Facility Compliance Order (FFCO), issued to Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on October 4, 1995. In our November 12, 1996 letter, we notified you of completion of Activity 3.1.6A, STP Compliance Plan Volume (CPV) (as revised June 1996), which requires that the Department of Energy (DOE) and the University of California (UC) "*Resubmit revised permit application to NMED*" for the Chemical Plating Waste Treatment Skid by October 30, 1996. In your December 18, 1996 letter, you asked whether our notification inferred that "more than treatability studies" might be performed on the referenced waste streams.

Your understanding is accurate. As we stated in our November 12, 1996 letter, not only have some wastes in various STP treatability groups been treated in treatability studies using the processes originally intended for use in the Chemical Plating Waste Treatment Skid, but electrochemical treatment is also being investigated to process low-level mixed waste streams including STP treatability groups LA-W913, LA-W914, LA-W915, and LA-W929. This investigation currently is being pursued through treatability studies, but depending upon their outcome, these investigations may be pursued at a larger scale using a permitted electrochemical treatment unit. However, use of this unit will not commence until NMED approves LANL's Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) permit application for electrochemical treatment, which was submitted to NMED on September 6, 1996; and will depend on whether future DOE funding levels will support further development of this treatment technology on-site.

Furthermore, we recognize that treatment of STP covered wastes on-site, using the permitted electrochemical treatment unit, could not proceed without NMED's prior approval of a revision requesting a new STP treatability group for electrochemical treatment. DOE and UC will determine whether or not to submit such a revision request depending upon the outcome of the treatability studies currently underway, and of NMED's RD&D permit approval action.

RED LANL FFCO/97



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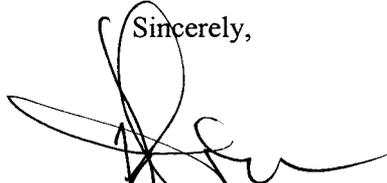
APR 30 1997

Mr. Benito Garcia

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A Certification Statement prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section XX, "Documents, Information, and Reporting Requirements," of the FFCO is enclosed herewith. We are available to discuss this information with you at any time. If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 665-5042, or Paul Schumann at (505) 667-5840. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this information.

Sincerely,



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

LAAMEP:9JP-053

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

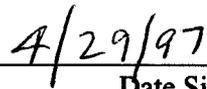
Mr. Stuart Dinwiddee
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials
Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo Street, Building A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

CERTIFICATION
COMPLETION OF PERMIT APPLICATION RESUBMITTAL, ACTIVITY
3.1.6A IN THE SITE TREATMENT PLAN (STP)

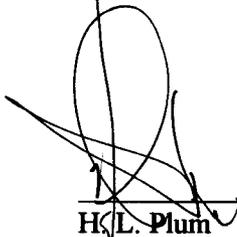
I certify that I am the project manager responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Site Treatment Plan for the Los Alamos National Laboratory. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the information in this document is true, accurate, and complete.



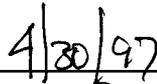
Kenneth M. Hargis
Manager of Operations
Waste Management Program
Environmental Management Programs
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Operator



Date Signed



H.L. Plum
Regulatory Permitting and Compliance Manager
Los Alamos Area Office
U.S. Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations
Owner/Operator



Date Signed