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**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**



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CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 14, 2015

Mr. Andrew Worker
STP Project Manager
Los Alamos Field Office
National Nuclear Safety Administration
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Ms. Monica Noll
STP Project Manager
Waste Management Programs (WM-PROG)
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS-K996
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: DELETION OF WASTE UNDER THE FEDERAL FACILITY COMPLIANCE
ORDER, SITE TREATMENT PLAN
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-14-030**

Dear Mr. Worker and Ms. Noll:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) (collectively, the Respondents) *Deletion of Waste Under the Federal Facility Compliance Order, Site Treatment Plan* dated May 8, 2014, and received May 9, 2014, and referenced by WM-DO-14-035.

NMED has reviewed Respondents written notice stating that DOE/LANS' "intent of deleting covered waste that has been shipped to Waste Control Specialists, LLC (WCS), Andrews, Texas for storage pending disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)" and provides the following comments:

Comments:

On February 2014, NMED received notice of a release at the WIPP nuclear waste repository. The DOE reported that drum 68660 experienced an energetic chemical reaction which ultimately led to the release of radioactive material. Drum 68660 is part of a nitrate salt waste stream

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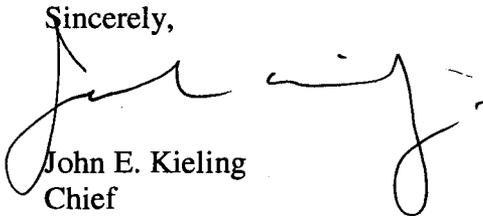
identified as LA-MIN02-V.001. As stated by Respondent's September 30, 2014, Response to NMED's August 26, 2014, request for information, Treatment of Waste without a Permit, approximately 107 containers from this waste stream were shipped to WIPP between January 7 and January 21, 2014, including container 68660.

As required by NMED, the Permittees submitted the *Revised LANL Nitrate Salt-Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan* on May 29, 2014, and the Permittees have begun to isolate all drums containing the associated nitrate salt-bearing waste stream (LA-MIN02-V.001) at LANL. The Permittees report that these drums have been placed in standard waste boxes and are under continuous air and thermal monitoring (as of June 6, 2014).

The cause of the chemical reaction is still under investigation, and the need for additional remediation of these containers is unknown. In light of recent events, and the potential need to re-remediate all nitrate salt-bearing waste, NMED has determined that the removal of mixed transuranic waste (mixed-TRU) from the site treatment plan (STP) will be deferred until more information becomes available and it is determined that the waste currently stored at WCS will not be returned to LANL.

Please contact Siona Briley of my staff at (505) 476-6049 should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
T. Hall, NMED HWB
S. Briley, NMED HWB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993
A. Dorries, ENV-DO

File: LANL, Site Treatment Plan, 2014 FFCO Administration and Fiscal Year 2014.