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& ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

OFFICE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
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C. Mack Sewell, DrPH, MS
State Epidemiologist

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September 22, 1989

general
Kirkland L. Jones, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
Environmental Improvement Division
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Dr. Jones:

I am responding to your letter of September 14, 1989 in which you requested a listing of any studies addressing the health effects of emissions of toxic materials and/or radionuclides by LANL.

I would recommend that you contact either George Voelz, M.D. or Warren Galke, Ph.D. of the Epidemiology Group at LANL. Their address and phone number are: LANL, P.O. Box 1663, Mailstop K404, Los Alamos, NM 87545, phone 667-6488. I am aware of at least one study that examined cancer rates in Los Alamos County. There are other studies by LANL epidemiologists that have examined cancer rates in LANL employees.

The New Mexico Tumor Registry is reluctant to publish county-specific cancer rates in New Mexico because of the instability of rates due to small population sizes. They might be willing, however, to provide cancer rates for a several county region and how those rates compare to the rest of New Mexico and the U.S.

If the Epidemiology Group at LANL cannot provide what you need, please let me know.

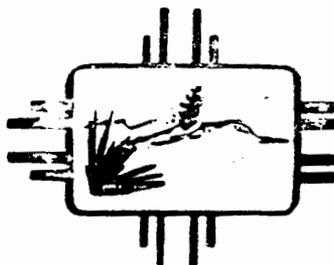
Sincerely,

C. Mack Sewell

C. Mack Sewell, Dr.P.H., M.S.
State Epidemiologist



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New Mexico Health and Environment Department

MARALYN BUOKE
Acting Secretary

CARLA L. MUTH
Deputy Secretary

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Deputy Secretary

RICHARD MITZELFELT
Director

September 14, 1989

Dr. Mack C. Sewell
Chief, Epidemiology Branch
Health and Environment Dept.
1190 St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87503

RE: Studies of Los Alamos Area

Dear Dr. Sewell:

During the public hearing for the draft hazardous waste permit for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) several people inquired about epidemiological studies encompassing the LANL region. This was constructed to include the bulk of Rio Arriba, Taos, Los Alamos, Sandoval, and Santa Fe counties. Of concern were health effects due to emission of toxic materials and/or radionuclides by LANL.

Would you please provide a listing of any known studies applicable to the above concerns and if possible a source for each. This material may affect future EID permitting decisions concerning LANL and your earliest response is solicited. If at all possible a response by October 6th would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Elizabeth Gordon or Boyd Hamilton of my Hazardous Waste Program staff at extension 2929.

Sincerely,


Kirkland E. Jones, Ph.D.
Deputy Director

KJ:CKC/vga

cc: Jack Ellvinger, Chief Hazardous Waste Bureau
Boyd Hamilton, Program Manager, Hazardous Waste Program