

General

MEMORANDUM

5 October, 1992

TO: Bruce Swanton
FROM: Larry Gay
SUBJECT: Air Issues at LANL

Bruce, the only current air issue at LANL is lack of compliance with radionuclide NESHAPS (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants) which is a regulation under the Clean Air Act. The EPA has enforcement authority for this, not NMED. The EPA has issued a Notice of Violation to LANL because of noncompliance with this regulation, and has done a fairly thorough inspection to determine the degree of noncompliance. Although the EPA has the authority to shut LANL down for noncompliance (subject to a Presidential veto), it is more likely that the EPA will enter into a compliance agreement with LANL specifying priorities and schedules for coming into compliance.

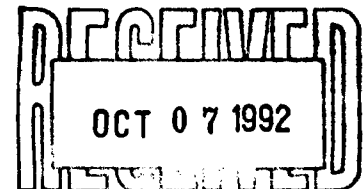
The radionuclide NESHAPS specifies a maximum offsite dose of 10 mrem per year, determined by measurements of stack emission rates of radionuclides and meteorological parameters which are used as input to a computer model that calculates offsite doses. The maximum offsite dose at LANL appears to be less than 10 mrem per year, but stack emission rates are not measured in accordance with NESHAPS, thus the NOV.

The EPA plans to issue a report on their findings sometime this month. Meanwhile we are curious onlookers. Our input to the EPA has been minimal, although I made two specific suggestions to the EPA as to weaknesses in QA at LANL during my week as an observer on the EPA audit team.

My hunch is that LANL is correct in its assertion that the non-compliance is really an issue of technicalities and not substance. I worry that we are focussing too much attention on this issue while neglecting more important things, such as emergency preparedness. Perhaps we can begin to focus on the latter once a new air rep is installed at LANL.



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