



BRUCE KING  
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

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*Program file  
# 12415  
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July 28, 1993

Mr. David Bradbury  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Mail Stop M992  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Dear Mr. Bradbury:

During the orientation to the site ranking system provided by Paul Aamodt last July 15 we learned that a guidance package was being prepared for ranking system users. It was clear to us that the effectiveness of the checklist would depend on the contents of this written guidance as many terms used in the questions require fairly specific definition. Following is a listing of these terms as well and number of the question in which they appear:

Surface water (A3) - need better definition of surface water, e.g. perennial vs ephemeral

Useable water (A2) - does this include perched alluvial water or water with ecological uses such as the support of wildlife (e.g. the endangered Jemez salamander)

Sufficient quantities (A2-A4) - define quantitatively in terms of Screening Action Levels

Sensitive environment (B6) - is this directed at fragile ecosystems like canyon drainages?

We also recommend that the following questions be included:

- A5. What are the expected or known concentrations of rad and/or hazardous waste in the waste stream associated with the unit? (Very high, moderately high, low, none)
- A6. What is the probability that the unit could have contributed to the presence of toxic or radiological contaminants identified in surface water, groundwater or soils downgradient of the area? (High, moderately high, low, none)
- B8. What is the probability of existing factors which could facilitate contaminant migration from the area such as faults, fractures, perched water, etc.? (High, moderate possibility, remote possibility, none)



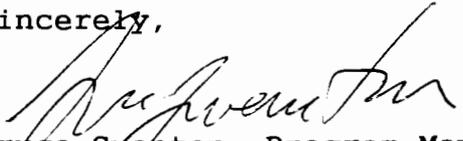
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If you have any questions regarding these recommendations, please contact me Monday through Wednesday mornings at 827-4308 or at 665-7124 during the remainder of the week.

Sincerely,



Bruce Swanton, Program Manger  
LANL/SNL Technical Oversight Program  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

cc: AIP LANL Office  
Benito Garcia, HRMB Bureau Chief  
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