



General

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

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Please draft a response for my signature. I'd like you to be over rep. Rues 11/7/93

NOV 08 1993

Kathleen Sisneros
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Ms. Sisneros:

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The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Environmental Restoration (ER) Program, through the Albuquerque Operations Office (AL), the Los Alamos Area Office (LAAO) and the University of California (UC), is implementing the Site Prioritization Paradigm. The objective of this paradigm is to provide a mechanism for stakeholders to participate in deciding how limited funding will be applied to the tasks necessary to complete environmental restoration at LANL. This letter is a request for one representative from your organization to participate in a Priority Review Team. The Team will meet for two days in Los Alamos, tentatively scheduled for November 18 and 19, 1993. At the conclusion of the meeting, I anticipate that no further participation will be required.

The Priority Review Team is an essential part of the Site Prioritization Paradigm, which is a multi-step process that includes the following major steps:

1. Criteria for Prioritization: there are two components - the first is the Site Ranking System Score and the second is the Principal Criteria. The Site Ranking System is a relative comparison of sites based on the risk they pose to human health and the environment. The score is obtained by answering a series of multiple choice questions regarding overall risk, pathways, and receptors. Depending on the answer selected, each question has a different score, which are summed and normalized to come up with an overall score. The scores for each site are reviewed by an unbiased Technical Review Team to assure that the ranking system is applied consistently to all sites. The remaining criteria are a series of qualitative questions that are used to adjust the priority of a site, and include factors such as waste management capacity, magnitude of public or tribal

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interest, potential for No Further Action or Voluntary Corrective Action, and benefit to cost ratio.

2. Recommend priorities and funding allocations: The LANL ER program will draft proposed priorities for ER activities and the percentage of the funding to be applied to each. This will be based on the Site Ranking System Score and adjusted by the Principle Criteria.
3. Priority Review Team: The purpose of the Priority Review Team is to review the proposed prioritization of activities and the funding allocation. In order to conduct a thorough review, the members of this team should include representatives of the Department of Energy/Headquarters, AL, LAAO, UC, State of New Mexico enforcement, State of New Mexico Agreement-in-Principle, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. The decisions made during this review will provide the basis for the LANL ER Program Baseline and the new schedules that will be the subject of a permit modification request.
4. Public Information and Input: The Site Prioritization Paradigm will be described at the Quarterly public information meetings in early December, and the proposed priorities and funding allocations approved by the Priority Review Team will be presented. In order to provide enough time to study the proposed activities and funding, the forum for public input will be at the public meetings and at the permit modification hearings tentatively scheduled for February 1994. Note that in future years, public input will be solicited in informal settings over longer periods; development of this process did not leave time to implement more extensive public involvement this year.

At LANL we have completed Step 1 in the process and Step 2 is currently ongoing. To make this process a viable tool for decision making, we need representation and participation by your organization. Please contact Ted Taylor of my staff at 505-665-7203 to provide the name of the representative who can be a member of the Priority Review Team.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Vozella, Chief
Environment, Safety and Health
Branch

LESH:7TT-006

cc:
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Kathleen Sisneros

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cc:

- D. Neleigh, Chief
RCRA Permits Section
Hazardous Waste Management Div.
U. S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Ave., Ste. 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
- B. Garcia, Bureau Chief
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials
Bureau
New Mexico Environment Dept.
525 Camino de los Marquez
Santa Fe, NM 87502
- S. Alexander
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials
Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
525 Camino de los Marquez
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502
- B. Hoditschek
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials
Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502
- S. Stoddard
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials
Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
525 Camino de los Marquez
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502
- T. Taylor, ES&H, LAAO
RPF, LANL, MS-M707
- K. Bitner, ERPO, AL