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February 17, 1994

Jerry L. Bellows, Area Manager
Department of Energy
Field Office, Albuquerque
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87554

Dear Mr. Bellows:

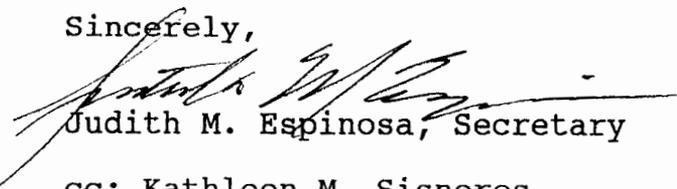
The purpose of this letter is to verify the receipt of the Conceptual Site Treatment Plan (CSTP) and the Appendix B, "Existing and Planned Facilities for Treating LLMW" for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

There is a major problem with the controlled air incinerator (CAI) strategy. That problem is the lack of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed treatment of mixed wastes for the CAI. In a letter to Mr. Leo Duffy, Office of Environmental Restoration & Waste Management, Department of Energy, dated April 29, 1991 (see attached), I requested an EIS be completed for the CAI. This issue has not been adequately addressed and remains incomplete as of this date. Therefore, LANL should not consider the CAI as a viable treatment technology for mixed waste until the EIS process has been completed.

NMED believes the strategies outlined in the CSTP are valid bases for specific site treatment plans. NMED's position is that for any strategy selected and agreed upon that all regulatory requirements must be met by the facility and its contractors. For example, if off-site transport and treatment is the preferred option, then the facility and contractors must meet the applicable federal Department of Transportation regulations, such as packaging and labelling stipulated in 49 CFR.

I appreciate the open and frank discussions that our respective staff members have enjoyed in the recent past and sincerely believe that future meetings will continue to be productive. Should you have any questions, please contact Benito Garcia of my staff at 505-827-4358.

Sincerely,


Judith M. Espinosa, Secretary

cc: Kathleen M. Sisneros



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