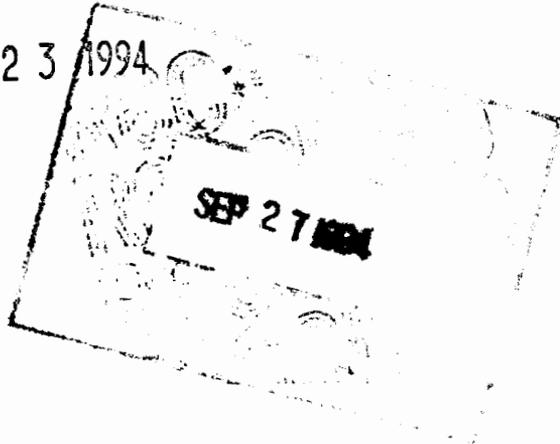


Department of Energy
 Field Office, Albuquerque
 Los Alamos Area Office
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

*Clawson,
 File LANL AIP
 Smith*

SEP 23 1994



LANL/ES

Mr. Benito Garcia, Chief
 Hazardous and Radioactive Materials
 Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 525 Camino de los Marquez
 P. O. Box 26110
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

General

Dear Mr. Garcia:

The Department of Energy (DOE), Los Alamos Area Office (LAAO) would like to clarify its intent in involving the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Agreement in Principle (AIP) staff in the development of the Ground Water Protection Management Program Plan (GWPMPP) with LAAO, Albuquerque Operations Office and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) staff.

NMED AIP technical staff include extremely qualified hydrogeologists who are familiar with LANL facilities and hydrogeology and who have previously provided technical recommendations via their technical oversight role. Our primary goal is to develop a comprehensive GWPMPP that meets the intent of DOE Order 5400.1, General Environmental Protection Program. We believe that teaming with the AIP staff will leverage the available technical resources.

Our secondary goal is to enhance the GWPMPP by satisfying as many regulatory requirements as possible. To achieve this secondary but no less important goal, we have asked the AIP to coordinate with NMED enforcement bureaus. During this developmental process, adjustments or additions to the GWPMPP can be made to satisfy not only DOE order requirements but regulatory drivers such as Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, etc. We would hope to continually coordinate with the AIP as the GWPMPP is designed to be a continually evolving plan.

DOE recognizes that NMED AIP technical input does not preclude the possibility that NMED may determine the monitoring system which results from these technical discussions may not comprehensively fulfill all regulatory requirements. Therefore, NMED reserves the right to bring enforcement actions against LANL should it determine that this is necessary in order to fulfill its legal obligations. The goal of this close cooperation between LANL and NMED AIP in this project is to minimize that possibility.



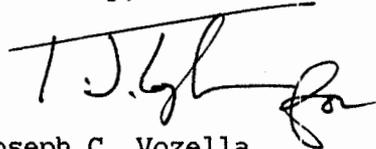
SEP 23 1994

Benito Garcia

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If you have any questions or concerns regarding DOE's requested role of the AIP staff, please contact me at (505) 665-5027.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Vozella
Acting Asst. Area Manager
Office of Environment and
Projects

LAAMEP:9DW-114

cc:

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