



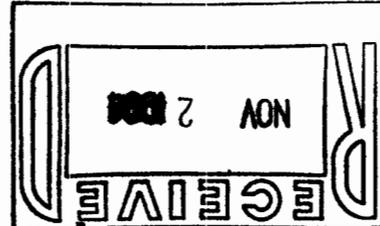
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

OCT 26 1994

*Copies to  
Ron IC -  
Barbara  
Bruce -  
original back to  
me - sends  
file  
LANL  
HSWA permit*

Mr. Theodore J. Taylor  
Program Manager  
Environmental Restoration Program  
Department of Energy  
Los Alamos Area Office  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

*VIII*



Re: Background Studies  
Los Alamos National Laboratory (NM0890010515)

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The manner in which Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) determines and defines what is natural background is a very important issue in the Corrective Action Program. In order to determine the extent of contamination, sampling results from field investigations will be compared to background studies for inorganics and practical quantitation limits (PQLs) for organics. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should approve your background study.

EPA understands that LANL has completed an initial background study, and would like to review the results and location of the background sampling.

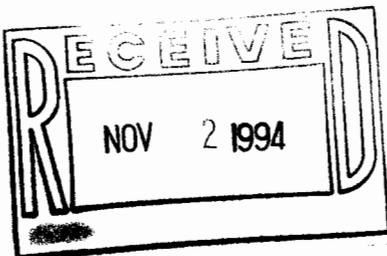
In addition, in the notes from the Monthly Program Status Meeting held October 12, 1994, LANL mentions evaluating polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) as part of an anthropogenic background. LANL needs to explain how this anthropogenic background information will be used in the corrective action process. EPA will also need to approve any locations picked as part of the study, as well as the parameters of the study.

If you should need additional assistance or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-7441.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Driscoll*

Barbara Driscoll, Facility Manager  
New Mexico - Federal Facilities  
RCRA Permits Branch



12547

or that

*LANL HSWA 6 EN 1 MISC / 6*

*JL*

cc: Mr. Benito Garcia  
Bureau Chief, Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Mr. Jorg Jansen  
Program Manager, Environmental Restoration Program  
Los Alamos National Laboratory, M992