



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
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DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

APR 19 1995

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Toni ✓
Susan ✓

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

Re: Use of High Explosive (HE) Spot Test Kit
Los Alamos National Laboratory (NM0890010515)

Dear Mr. Taylor:

It has come to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) attention that the HE spot test kit currently used by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is not as accurate a field screening test for determining the presence of 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene (TNT) and hexhydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (RDX) concentrations in soil as other field screening tests currently in use. In particular, several of the field screening techniques described in the enclosed document have demonstrated detection of TNT as low as 30 mg/Kg.

Therefore, effective immediately EPA has determined that LANL may no longer use the HE spot test kit, but must use a field screening technique based on EPA SW-846 Method 8510 and 8515 colorimetric analyses based on Jenkins (Jenkins, Thomas F., Development of Simplified Field Method for the Determination of TNT in Soil, CRREL Special Report 90-38, November 1990) and Walsh and Jenkins (Jenkins, Thomas F. and Marianne E. Walsh, Development of Field Screening Method for RDX in Soil, CRREL Special Report 91-7, June 1991). If LANL believes that the HE spot test kit currently used can provide as good as or better results than other HE field test kits than LANL must provide documentation to that fact.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Barbara Driscoll at (214) 665-7441.

Sincerely,

William K. Honker, P.E., Chief
RCRA Permits Branch

cc: Mr. Benito Garcia
New Mexico Environment Department



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LANL ASWA GEN/MISC/G

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