

General

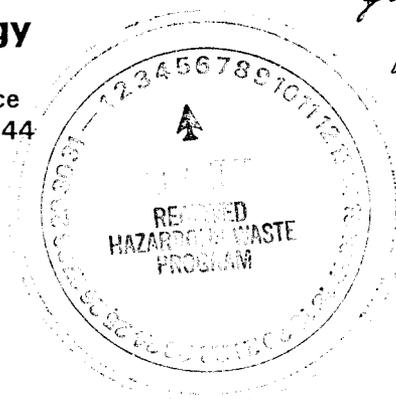
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Department of Energy

Los Alamos Area Office
Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

JUN 27 1995



Neil Weber
AIP Bureau Chief
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Weber:

Subject: Thermoluminescent Dosimetry (TLD) Monitoring at LANL

The results from NMED TLD monitoring at LANL are important to DOE and the public as an independent check of LANL's TLD measurements. We are very interested in the success of your independent TLD sampling and analysis. However, my staff has become aware of discrepancies in the NMED TLD measurement data as compared to LANL's data. Your staff has acknowledged that a probable cause for this discrepancy is the TLD analytical laboratory contracted by NMED. We understand that attempts to correct this problem have not been successful after five quarters of sampling.

LANL data

In keeping with our AIP agreement, we request further information on your TLD sampling results, QA procedures, etc., associated with LANL operations. We are also requesting a data summary, and if possible, a comparison of NMED results with those available from LANL TLD samples and results. I am interested in knowing what information you provide to the public or outside groups, how you characterize that information in comparison with LANL's data, and what your plan is to improve NMED's TLD program.

We encourage your staff to continue coordination with LANL in correcting these TLD discrepancies. A suggestion may be to contract a different analytical laboratory that carries a good reputation on environmental TLD analyses. The contractor should have an excellent QA and analytical program regardless of the type of TLD used. Currently, LANL uses Lithium Fluoride (LiF) TLD technology for environmental dosimetry. We suggest that the NMED AIP environmental TLD program should have the capability for comparing its TLD data to LiF technology if a different TLD technology, such as Aluminum Oxide, is used.



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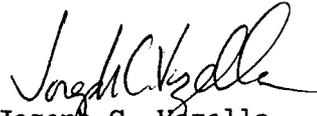
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NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Neil Weber

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Mr. Ruben Rangel at LANL may be contacted at (505) 667-2416 if you need further technical specifications on their environmental TLD program. If you have any other questions or comments, please contact me at (505) 665-5027 or Ivan Trujillo of my staff at (505) 667-4664.



Joseph C. Vozella
Assistant Area Manager
Office of Environment and Projects

LAAMEP:9IT-004

cc:

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