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LANL read*

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

FEB 5 1996

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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Ed Kelly, Director  
Water and Waste Management Division  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Kelly:

The purpose of this letter is to apprise you of the status of the proposed Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility/Mixed Waste Receiving and Storage Facility project at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). On April 26, 1991, the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) should be prepared for the proposed facilities. Shortly after this determination, you were notified of DOE intent to prepare an EA on the proposed facilities. In addition, on May 12, 1995, DOE announced in the Federal Register that it intended to prepare a Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for LANL. In Table 1 of the Federal Register announcement, it was stated that DOE planned to proceed with ongoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review for the proposed treatment facility and for the receiving and storage facility. These facilities were planned to be used to support near-term programmatic requirements for treating hazardous waste and for storing mixed waste (i.e., radioactive and hazardous waste) at LANL. Since the Federal Register announcement, DOE has been re-evaluating alternatives to building these proposed facilities at LANL. As a result of waste reduction initiatives and the potential for wastes to be treated at other DOE sites or at commercial facilities, DOE has decided to discontinue any further NEPA review on this project at this time.

Therefore, by way of this letter, I am officially notifying you of the change in the programmatic need for these facilities and the cancellation of all further work on the NEPA review for the proposed project. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (505) 667-8690.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth R. Withers  
NEPA Compliance Officer  
Office of Environment  
and Projects

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