



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

APR 30 1996



Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive
Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Dept.
2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Forest Fire - Contingency Planning

The purpose of this letter is to confirm our discussion of April 30, 1996. This was in regard to the actions being taken to prevent the spread of chemical waste should the uncontrolled forest fire, known as the Dome Fire, now burning in the Santa Fe National Forest and Bandelier National Monument, encroach on Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) property.

We are currently developing contingency plans to clear fire breaks, provide additional protection, such as cover with soil or other fire retardants, and/or move chemical waste which may be in the fire's path should it enter LANL boundaries. These measures are being specifically made for the TA-54 storage facilities, but will also include other satellite locations as needed as part of contingency planning for other facilities.

Due to the magnitude of the possible actions required, we are unable to provide specific information at this time. Emergency management is part of our daily operations and plans exist for events such as those caused by spills. Fires, as represented by the Dome Fire, are of such magnitude that additional contingency plans must be developed to respond to the event as it is occurring. As some of these plans could at least temporarily alter the manner and location where we are currently permitted to store our chemical waste, (and there would not be time to request emergency approval for needed actions), it is our belief that notification of the possibility is needed.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 665-5042 (O) or (505) 298-3062 (H).

Sincerely,

H.L. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment and Projects

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cc:
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Benito Garcia

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cc:

Barbara Hoditschek, Program Manager
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bcc:

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