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

MAY 29 1997

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



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MAY 29 1997

NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Dr. Kelley:

This letter follows our meeting held Friday, May 9, 1997, at your office where you expressed concern over the Department of Energy's (DOE) commitment to the Accelerated Corrective Action Process for cleanup of environmental restoration sites. Concern over this issue was expressed among other important issues which are being addressed in separate letters.

DOE staff did not intend to indicate a lack of support for the proposed Accelerated Corrective Action Process that was discussed at the most recent Core Team meeting on the Document of Understanding (DOU). I regret that such a message was perceived by your staff.

DOE is committed to implementing the Accelerated Corrective Action Process at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and has already phased in several elements of the accelerated process over the past three years. We also continually look for better ways of satisfying Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendment permit requirements in the most efficient manner in order to achieve more cleanups within existing budgets. Cleanup technologies, site-specific information, changing regulatory guidance, and fluctuating budgets all necessitate dynamic changes to our approaches.

We appreciate the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) support when better ways are found to meet requirements, and ask that you remain open to improvements to the subject process as we move toward finalizing it as a DOU annex. A draft annex will be submitted on June 5, 1997 to Core Team members and will be discussed at the next Core Team meeting on June 19. I have asked Ted Taylor, the Los Alamos Area Office representative on the DOU Core Team, to clarify any final changes DOE deems appropriate for presentation to the Core Team and to work with your staff to finalize the subject annex in an expeditious manner.



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Dr. Ed Kelley

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I look forward to continued discussions with you on all matters of mutual concern. If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 667-5105.

Sincerely,



G. Thomas Todd  
Area Manager

LAAMEP:2MJ-038

cc:

M. Johansen, Acting AAMEP, LAAO

T. Taylor, LAAMEP, LAAO

T. Baca, EM-DO, LANL, MS-J591

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