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CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 5, 1998

Mr. George J. Rael, Director
Environmental Restoration Team
Albuquerque Operations Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-5400

RE: "Proposed Methodologies for Ecological Screening/Preliminary Risk Assessment at the Department of Energy New Mexico National Laboratories", Dated January 5, 1998

Dear Mr. Rael:

The Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received a copy of the "Proposed Methodologies for Ecological Screening/Preliminary Risk Assessment at the Department of Energy New Mexico National Laboratories" dated January 5, 1998 submitted for information only.

HRMB understands that the Methodology is being reviewed by other technical experts for comments. Upon the completion of addressing these peer review comments DOE will submit a revised final version of the documents for Department of Energy (DOE)/Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories (SNL and LANL) for NMED review and eventual approval.

DOE/SNL and LANL must submit the final version of the "Proposed Methodologies for Ecological Screening/Preliminary Risk Assessment at the Department of Energy New Mexico National Laboratories" to HRMB/NMED within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of this letter. HRMB is also requesting that peer review comments provided by the technical experts be provided with the submittal. HRMB review of DOE/SNL and LANL Corrective Action documents cannot continue until such time the Ecological Risk Assessment Methodology is approved and established. DOE/SNL and DOE/LANL is required under HSWA Module IV, *R. RFI Scope of Work* and HSWA



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Module VIII, *Q. Scope of Work for a RFI at LANL*, respectively, to determine potential impacts on human health and the environment and susceptibility to contaminant exposure from the facility.

If you have questions concerning this letter, please contact myself or Dr. Robert S. (Stu) Dinwiddie at (505) 827-1558.

Sincerely,



Ed Kelley, Ph.D., Director
Water and Waste Management Division
New Mexico Environment Department

EK:jek(HRMB)

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File: Reading, HSWA LANL G/M/S and HSWA SNL G/M/S
Track: LANL/SNL, 2/5/98, na, DOE/LANL, NMED/WWMD/Kelly, RE, File