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45WA CANL 6/10/98

**CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

March 25, 1998

Mr. Theodore Taylor, Project Manager  
Los Alamos Area Office-Department of Energy  
528 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Dr. John Browne, Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, MS-A100  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: Approval of the LANL Hydrogeological Workplan dated December 6, 1997**

Dear Mr. Taylor and Dr. Browne:

The RCRA Permits Management Program (RPMP) of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has reviewed the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) response to RPMPs Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) (referenced by LAAME:3BK-022) to the Hydrogeologic Workplan (Workplan). RPMP is approving the Workplan based on the Response to the RSI and per NMED discussions with LANL and Department of Energy (DOE) staff at a March 23, 1998 meeting. In addition, RPMP would like to express appreciation for the open communication and working environment that LANL/DOE and RPMP staff have established as it aids in expedition of the review and approval process.

LANL shall incorporate the agreed to changes in the Workplan as stated in LANLs response to RPMPs Request for Supplemental Information. In addition, LANL shall clarify in the Workplan the items discussed in the 3/23/98 meeting which include: clarification of the integration between the Hydrogeologic Workplan with the canyon-specific workplans, clarification of the approach towards characterization and potential monitoring of intermediate groundwater zones (e.g., when will they be addressed and will the intermediate groundwater zones be addressed through the Workplan or the canyon-specific workplans), and revise the technical inaccuracies of the Workplan per NMED DOE-Oversight Bureau comments.

Although RPMP approves the Workplan, RPMP notes that the Workplan follows an iterative approach and as knowledge of the hydrogeologic system improves and modifications to the

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Workplan become necessary or are requested, approval of the modifications by RPMP will be required. To expedite potential modification requests, RPMP suggests that the open communication between LANL and RPMP continue and that RPMP staff be included in LANL/DOE discussions as they pertain to potential modifications.

LANL shall submit to RPMP, within 60 days of the receipt of this letter, the final copy of the Hydrogeologic Workplan. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact myself or John Kieling, RPMP's LANL Facility Manager, at (505) 827-1558.

Sincerely,

  
Robert S. (Stu) Dinwiddie, Manager  
RCRA Permits Management Program  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

RSD:jry

cc:

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