

# Los Alamos National Laboratory

*Environment, Safety, and Health Division*

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Date: December 8, 2000  
Refer to: ESH-DO:00-167

Mr. James P. Bearzi, Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2044 A. Galisteo St.  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

**SUBJECT: NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR CORRECTIVE ACTION GOAL,  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY NM0890010515**

*James*  
Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (Laboratory) and the Department of Energy (DOE) Los Alamos Area Office (LAAO) are in receipt of your letter regarding the referenced subject, dated October 10, 2000. Therein, you indicated that the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have listed the Laboratory in a baseline of facilities that ... *have been targeted to definitively establish the existence of, and mitigate where necessary, any unacceptable human exposure to contamination or groundwater contamination migration* ... Your letter goes on to describe how you propose to use the defining criteria of two Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action Environmental Indicator (EI) Codes (CA 725-Human Exposures Controlled and CA 750-Groundwater Releases Controlled) for performing this assessment.

The Laboratory and DOE/LAAO were relieved of some of the requirements stated in your letter of October 10<sup>th</sup>, when during the last week in October, Laboratory staff (David McInroy) met with John Kieling of your staff, and Rich Mayer, EPA Region VI on October 26<sup>th</sup> in Santa Fe. During their discussion regarding the planned EI process, Mr. McInroy was told by Mr. Kieling to delay responding to your October 10<sup>th</sup> request for information until after completing the EPA EI training scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>. Both NMED and EPA indicated that the request for EI Program information from the Laboratory was likely to change in both approach and scope based on the outcome of the training.

During the November 14<sup>th</sup> training (attended by Laboratory staff), Steve Pullen of your staff emphasized his goal that, if possible, each facility would work with their assigned NMED permit writer to provide input that will allow preparation of just a single spreadsheet addressing each of the two Corrective Action EI subjects. In that regard,

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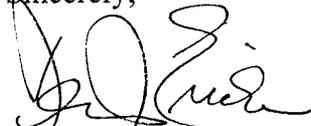
Laboratory staff (Paul Schumann) met with Carl Will of your staff on November 14<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. Will agreed to an approach whereby the Laboratory would prepare information responsive to the EI as part of the activities associated with completion of the Laboratory's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit Part B re-application submittals, rather than as a separate process, to minimize the EI burden on the facility, as much as possible. Mr. Will described his timetable as driven by the need to ensure that the necessary EI information will have been collected to support modifications to RCRIS, that are due to EPA in June, 2001. Please be aware that, notwithstanding Mr. Will's conversation with Mr. Schumann on November 14<sup>th</sup>, on further reflection, the Laboratory will likely have difficulty accomodating this modified approach based on a June deadline.

During and since the EI training session, Laboratory staff noted some confusion as to what EI information was ultimately being requested. Also, during the November 14<sup>th</sup> training, both Mr. Pullen and Dave Vogler, EPA Region VI, emphasized that this EI request was a "voluntary" activity on the part of the affected facilities, and EPA and NMED were merely requesting assistance from the regulated community. In order to ensure that the Laboratory understands the intent of your request, and provides the appropriate response to your original letter, we would appreciate receiving further written guidance that details the specific content and format of the information you are requesting, and a reasonable timetable for our response.

Finally, we would appreciate any information you can provide as to the actual status of the Laboratory as an EPA priority site. Your letter states that the Laboratory was listed by NMED and EPA, and to our knowledge, the Laboratory is not listed as one of the 135 priority sites for EPA Region VI.

This response to your letter of October 10, 2000 has been coordinated with Mr. Joe Vozella, DOE/LAAO. Should you require further information regarding this response, please feel free to contact either Alice Barr, Hazardous and Solid Waste Group (ESH-19) at 667-0820 or Charles Nylander, Water Quality and Hydrology Group (ESH-18) at 665-4681.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Erickson  
Division Director  
Environment, Safety, and Health Division

DJE:CN/tml

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S. Rae, (ESH-18/WQ&H:00-0389) ESH-18, MS K497  
C. Nylander, LANL, ESH-18, MS K497  
J. White, LANL, ESH-19, MS K490  
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ESH-DO File, MS K491  
WQ&H File, MS K497

