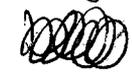


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Blue July  


# Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

**Environment, Safety, and Health Division**  
MS K491  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545  
(505) 667-4218  
FAX 505-665-3811

Date: August 25, 1997  
Refer to: ESH-DO-97:274

Mr. John Tymkowych  
Program Manager  
RCRA Inspection/Enforcement Program  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502



Dear Mr. Tymkowych:

It has come to my attention that you have recently expressed some concerns to James White, our group leader for Hazardous and Solid Waste (ESH-19), about the actions of Laboratory personnel invoking certain safety procedures and in speaking with Laboratory employees in advance of or during interviews during the current annual RCRA/Hazardous Waste inspection. From the Laboratory's standpoint, a number of employees have expressed concerns regarding their rights and obligations in response to inquiries made by various inspectors on specific topics. There also may have developed misunderstandings between our respective staffs concerning the role and function of the ESH-19 personnel who accompany the inspectors during the inspection.

To facilitate the process for the remainder of the inspection and to avoid any further misunderstandings, I am requesting that we meet before the inspectors go out on their next round of inspections. This meeting will be used to understand these and any other related issues in order to reach accord as to how best to proceed. I will request that key ESH-19 members that have been involved in the inspection be present at the meeting and will invite one of our environmental attorneys to attend so as to address any outstanding legal concerns. I am inviting you and your team of inspectors to attend, and a representative of your legal counsel's office is also most welcome to attend.

In this regard, the Laboratory is committed to fully cooperating with you and your inspection team during the annual RCRA/HWA inspection. I would appreciate your responding to this request for a meeting as soon as possible, so that we can notify the appropriate Laboratory personnel of its time and place. If you are so inclined, please give me a call at (505)667-4218 at your earliest possible convenience regarding this matter.

Sincerely,  
  
Dennis J. Erickson, Ph.D.  
Division Director

DJE:SB:dts

Cy: G.T. Todd, DOE/LAAO/A316  
J. White, ESH-19/K490  
J. Rochelle, LC/GL/A187  
CIC-10/A150  
ESH-DO File

