



FEB 8 1984

*File
Los Alamos
National Laboratory*

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

Peter Pache, Environmental Scientist
Hazardous Waste Section
NM Environmental Improvement Division
P. O. Box 968
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0968

RE: RCRA - EPA I.D. No. NM0890010515

Dear Mr. Pache:

We received your November 7, 1983 letter regarding closure, post-closure, and ground water monitoring plans for the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and informed you by letter, dated December 7, 1983, we were coordinating our response with DOE officials at our headquarters, and you would be hearing from us later.

As you are aware, the Los Alamos National Laboratory is a Department of Energy facility operated under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. We are of the opinion that all Atomic Energy Act activities are exempted from regulations under the RCRA, whether those of the EPA or of an authorized State program, as per the exemption provided in Section 1006 of RCRA. Notwithstanding this exemption, the DOE has developed essentially a mirror program of the EPA's RCRA program, which is being implemented at all of our Atomic Energy Act facilities, and we are fully committed to ensuring that the Los Alamos National Laboratory hazardous waste management and disposal activities are **conducted** in compliance with EPA's RCRA standards. In addition, we desire good relations with the NM EID regarding RCRA business, and will give you **our** full cooperation.

The DOE's hazardous waste management program likewise requires closure and post-closure plans for our facilities. These plans for the Los Alamos National Laboratory will be prepared and are expected to be completed by July 1, 1984. We will be happy to forward copies to you as soon as they are completed.

Regarding your request for a ground-water monitoring plan, the Los Alamos National Laboratory submitted, pursuant to our DOE ORDER 5480.2, a request to our DOE office in Albuquerque seeking approval of a variance from the ground-water monitoring requirements of the ORDER in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR Section 265.90(c). The Albuquerque review of the request is currently taking place, and when the review is complete, and the variance granted, copies of the request, variance, and all supporting documentation will be provided the NM EID.

RECEIVED



14821

FEB 9 1984

HAZARDOUS WASTE SECTION

Peter Pache

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Crismon of my staff at 667-5288, Los Alamos.

Sincerely,


Harold E. Valencia
Area Manager