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DOE OVERSIGHT BUREAU

November 22, 1995

Denny Erickson, Director  
Environment, Safety and Health Division  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663  
Mail Stop K491  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

ENTERED  
7/15/96

**RE: Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Compliance Evaluation Inspection (9/14-18/95)**

Dear Mr. Erickson:

The Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) conducted its annual RCRA Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on September 14-18, 1995. Although HRMB inspectors noted fewer violations as a result of this inspection as compared to last year's inspection, I am troubled by the number and type of "routine" violations that recurred at LANL as determined by this most recent inspection. DOE/LANL certainly had to know that it was time for HRMB's annual CEI to be conducted, as Federal FY 95 was nearing its end. Therefore, the element of surprise that we consider to be most effective in determining a facility's "normal" operational standards was not present.

The violations that were noted involve, quite frankly, as we have discussed in the past, relatively simple housekeeping measures that require very basic compliance efforts. While there can be argument about the significance or seriousness of the violations, I firmly believe that there can be no argument that such violations are unwarranted and are due to negligence by LANL employees. HRMB inspectors visited a great number of sites throughout the laboratory, and most of them were determined to be in compliance with state hazardous waste regulations. At the same time, a CEI is conducted but once a year. Consequently, we can only assume that our inspection findings represent the best case scenario regarding LANL's compliance status.

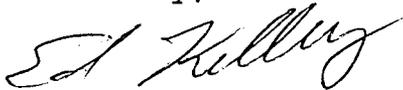


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Denny Erickson  
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I anticipate that our enforcement action in response to the inspection will be issued in due time. I would like to thank DOE/LANL staff for the cooperation which I understand was afforded the inspectors. I trust that our next inspection will yield more positive results.

Sincerely,



Ed Kelley  
Director  
Water and Waste Management Division

xc: Benito Garcia, Chief, Haz. & Rad. Mat. Bureau  
Neil Weber, Chief, DOE Oversight Program