



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

*Steve -  
 please coordinate  
 a meeting between  
 me, you & Eric O.  
 on this letter  
 Benito  
 1/23/97*

JAN 17 1997



CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief  
 Hazardous and Radioactive Materials  
 Bureau  
 New Mexico Environment Department  
 2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A  
 P. O. Box 26110  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

**Subject: Request for the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to Implement the Single Permit with Individual Sections Devoted to Each Technical Area (TA)**

The purpose of this letter is to request you implement the above-referenced strategy. We have been working with NMED on this strategy for several years. At our last meeting, we discussed the acceptance of this approach. It was agreed we would provide a letter requesting the implementation of the above strategy and listing the rationale for its implementation.

During our discussions and negotiations on this issue, a number of letters have gone back and forth. In those letters, we have attempted to illustrate the positive aspects of implementing this type of strategy. The following is a brief list of the reasons for this strategy:

- This strategy reduces the amount of paper required to permit the facility.
- By reducing the volume of paper needed for the permit application, the amount of time by both NMED and the Department of Energy (DOE)/University of California (UC) is subsequently reduced.
- It follows that any reduction in the volume of paper and time spent in reviewing it will allow for a commensurate reduction in budget needed to process the documents by both NMED and DOE/UC.



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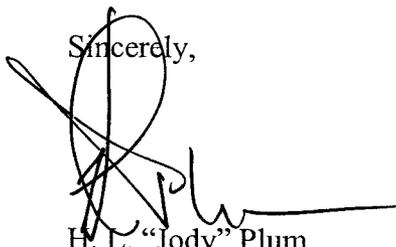
Benito Garcia

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- This type of document will allow for greater ease in determining what requirements apply to specific units.
- The ease of use of this document by both NMED permit writers, inspectors and those charged with the operation of the units will allow greater understanding and compliance.
- This strategy will provide the ability to schedule the submittal of TA-specific applications and provide better fiscal control to meet ever increasing demands on staff and reduction in budgets.
- Proper sequencing of the submittal of the applications will provide the public with a clear picture of what is being requested and when. It will also not overburden their available time for review and comment.
- This strategy will make the issue of fees for permitting, identification and penalties for violations, and what reports need to be made and when clear.

In summary, we view this strategy as a solid, flexible, responsible approach on permitting the hazardous waste management units at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. We look forward to working with you and your staff on the implementation of this strategy. We understand the next unit that is outside the current permit will start this process. In addition, we will work with your staff to determine the number of applications to be delivered each year and the schedule to be followed. The current permit covers TA-50, 54, and 16. Please advise us concerning the acceptance of this proposal.

Sincerely,



H. L. "Jody" Plum  
Office of Environment  
and Projects

LAAMEP:2JP-058

cc:

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