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State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
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DEPUTY SECRETARY

Certified Mail  
Return Receipt Requested

February 18, 1997

Mr. Robert L. Anderson  
115 Columbia SE #32  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The New Mexico Environment Department received your written comment on the Department of Energy's Los Alamos National Laboratory Closure Plan for Technical Area 16 (TA-16) Material Disposal Area-P- (MDA-P) and the Class III Permit Modification to add container storage at the Waste Characterization areas in Technical Areas 50 and 54 (TA-50/54).

In your comment you state, "Given the recent information on the increasing contamination of our aquifers by radioactive contamination from LANL I urge you to immediately start a shut down and removal of all nuclear activities, storage and transportation at LANL."

Activities at TA-16,50,and 54 which you commented on are related to the hazardous waste cleanup and corrective action process at LANL. The State of New Mexico does not have the authority to "start a shut down and removal of all nuclear activities" because the Department of Energy is "self regulating" for "nuclear activities". If the waste contains one or more hazardous constituents then the waste is classified as mixed waste and the State of New Mexico has the authority to control only the hazardous portion of the waste.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this response to your comment please contact me at the above address or by telephone at (505) 827-1561.

Sincerely,

Robert S. (Stu) Dinwiddie, Ph.D.  
Manager  
RCRA Permits Management Program

cc: LANL Red File 97



15560

Permit  
TA 16

TK