

RED LAMU GIP/00



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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
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PETER MAGGIORE
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**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

June 21, 2000

Mr. David A. Gurule, Area Manager
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Dr. John C. Browne, Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A100
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

**RE: APPROVAL OF DEBRIS LEACHING TREATABILILTY STUDY EXTENSION
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
NM0890010515**

Dear Mr. Gurule and Dr. Browne:

The Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) of the New Mexico Environment Department has reviewed the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) letter dated April 26, 2000 (ESH-19:00-038) regarding an extension to complete the Debris Leaching Treatability Study. It is our understanding that the extension is only needed to complete testing and analysis on current samples in process, no new samples will be received. After reviewing past correspondence and speaking with LANL and University of California (UC) staff involved, HRMB conditionally approves a six-month extension. The correspondence reviewed includes the November 19, 1998 letter describing the treatability study, the July 19, 1999 letter regarding the anticipated start date for the study and changes to the process, and the March 1, 2000 annual report which specified the quantities of stored wastes and treatment dates. LANL shall complete this treatability study by January 19, 2001 and must meet all other requirements as specified in 20.4.1.200 of the New Mexico Administrative Code, incorporating Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations section 261.4(f).

The March 1, 2000 annual report specified quantities of stored wastes and treatment dates, but current information is needed on the total quantity of samples that were received, how much of

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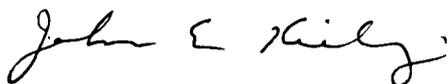
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the samples have been processed to date, any change, if measurable, in the sample volume as a result of the study, and a percentage estimate of how much of the waste stream was diverted toward this treatability study. Documentation is needed to verify that this is not treatment and that this treatability study is at a scale envisioned by the regulations. HRMB requests that LANL provide this documentation within 30 days. Full approval of the treatability study will then be granted.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-1558 extension 1012 or Eliza Frank at (505) 827-1558 extension 1048.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Program Manager
RCRA Permits Management Program

JEK:eaf

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