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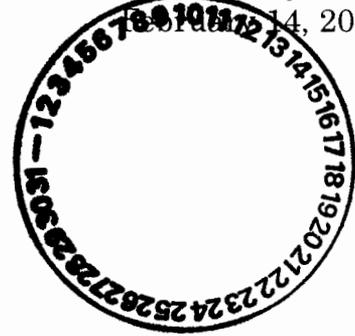
LAUL Order File
Permit



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The Honorable Richard G. Polanco
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, California 95814-4906

Dear Senator Polanco:

Thank you for sharing with me a copy of your January 15th letter to Ms. Marsha Mason about her concerns regarding waste disposal Area G at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the University's response to Ms. Mason.

UC and the UC-managed Department of Energy (DOE) laboratories are committed to protecting the environment. As noted in our letter to Ms. Mason, the most recent performance assessment conducted by independent contractors to DOE gave assurance that Area G is not polluting the environment. Nevertheless, Ms. Mason will have an opportunity to raise her concerns to the New Mexico Environment Department during a public comment period as part of the Laboratory's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit renewal process.

If you would like further information about this matter, please feel free to get in touch with me or with Assistant Vice President Stephen Arditti in our Sacramento office. He can be reached at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Atkinson
President

Enclosure

- cc: The Honorable Spencer Abraham
- ✓ The Honorable Gary Johnson
- Vice President John McTague
- Assistant Vice President Stephen Arditti
- Director John Browne



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Office of the Governor



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT—
LABORATORY MANAGEMENT

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February 8, 2002

Ms. Marsha Mason
528 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

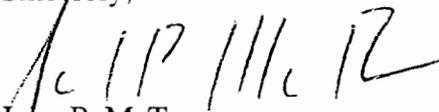
Dear Ms. Mason:

President Richard Atkinson has asked me to respond to your letter of January 4 regarding waste disposal Area G at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Please be assured that the Laboratory and the University of California are committed to protecting the environment. Numerous studies have been conducted regarding the environmental performance of Area G. The most recent assessment conducted by independent contractors to the Department of Energy (DOE) gave assurance that Area G is not polluting the environment. Management and disposal of low-level radioactive waste at Area G is regulated under the Atomic Energy Act by the DOE. Mixed waste (hazardous wastes that are also radioactive) regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) are stored at Area G and disposed of off site in accordance with RCRA interim status requirements. The Laboratory's RCRA permit renewal application seeks to incorporate in the renewed permit the mixed waste storage units currently operating under interim status. The permit will also include provisions for the stabilization and monitoring of inactive hazardous waste disposal units at Area G.

After the draft permit is issued, the public will have 180 days to provide comments to the New Mexico Environment Department. This would be an excellent forum for you to further express your concerns. The Laboratory and the University will carefully consider the issues raised during this process.

Sincerely,


John P. McTague
Vice President
Laboratory Management

cc: The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
The Honorable Pete Domenici
The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable John Gonzales
The Honorable Andrew Quintana
✓ The Honorable Richard Polanco
Manager Richard Glass, DOE Albuquerque Operations Office
Hazardous Waste Bureau Chief James Bearzi, NMED
President Richard Atkinson, University of California
Director John Browne, Los Alamos National Laboratory