



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
2044 Galisteo Street
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
(505) 827-1557
Fax (505) 827-1544



PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

January 11, 1999

Tito O. Madrid, Director
Field Operations Division
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Street
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Subject: Status of Solid Waste Management Unit 0-030(g), Old Catholic Church Site, Los Alamos, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Madrid:

As per your request the Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) is providing information on the status of Old Catholic Church Site. On January 1, 1999, HRMB received the Revised Status Report, dated December 23, 1998 (referenced by EM/ER:98-484), submitted by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), for the above referenced site and is in the process of reviewing it. HRMB will update Mr. Lavato of Housing Solutions on the outcome of the review when completed. The review is expected to be completed by the first week of February.

Attachment A includes a brief chronological history of the work done at the site and subsequent reviews and communications between HRMB and LANL regarding this project. Attachment B includes copies of correspondence between LANL and HRMB since HRMB's last April 1, 1998 letter to Mr. Richard Pick of Housing Solutions. If you have any questions, please contact John Kieling, HRMB's Facility Manager for LANL, at (505) 827-1558 extension 1012.

Sincerely,

Benito Garcia, Chief
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau



7053

1071A-1039(9)

72

Mr. Madrid
January 11, 1999
Page 2

BJG:nd

cc w/attachments:

Eugene Lavato, Housing Solutions
File: HSWA LANL 1/1071/0/030(g)
Track: LANL, 1/11/99, na

ATTACHMENT A

Status of SWMU 0-030(g), Old Catholic Church Site

SWMU 0-030(g) is a septic tank, its associated drain line and outfall area located north of Canyon road. The septic tank and associated drain line was excavated and removed during Phase I RFI Investigation in 1993.

LANL submitted the RFI report to HRMB on November 13, 1995. Several radionuclides and inorganic chemicals were found in the tank and in soil surrounding the tank at elevated levels. Confirmatory samples were taken from the soil beneath the septic tank and drain line after the excavation. Mercury, chromium, nickel, lead, thallium and zinc were detected above background levels. Radionuclides plutonium-239/240, plutonium-238, uranium-234, uranium-235, uranium-238, americium-241 were also found to be above their respective fallout background levels. Pesticides and PCBs were also detected (see enclosed tables A-2 to A-4 from RFI report, Sep. 1995).

HRMB sent a Notice of Deficiency (NOD) to LANL for RFI report on July 1, 1996.

LANL responded to the NOD on March 6, 1997 and took additional samples in the drainage channel to determine the extent of PCB contamination.

A letter was sent to Mr. Richard Peck of Housing Solutions by HRMB on April 1, 1998 explaining that HRMB had concerns on contaminant residues and risks to human health and ecology at the site which had not been adequately addressed by LANL. HRMB did not approve the RFI report at that time (copy of the letter enclosed).

On May 12, 1998 HRMB sent a Request for Supplement Information (RSI) to LANL. LANL was asked to take additional samples to define the nature and extent of contamination and to provide a human health and ecological risk assessment for the site.

LANL responded to HRMB's RSI on June 10, 1998. HRMB granted conditional Approval upon Modification for the RFI report on June 29, 1998. The approval was based on a provision that LANL submit replacement pages to the RFI report and submit a new Sample and Analysis plan (SAP) to determine the extent of contamination to HRMB within thirty days.

The SAP and replacement pages were submitted by LANL on July 29, 1998. HRMB reviewed the SAP and sent an additional RSI for the SAP to LANL on August 7, 1998. LANL responded to it on August 14, 1998 by submitted a revised SAP incorporating HRMB's comments. LANL was to conduct sampling at the mesa top between 24 and 28 August, 1998 and submit a report to HRMB for review.

Mr. Madrid
January 11, 1999
Page 4

HRMB received a Status report from LANL dated November 19, 1998, reviewed it and discussed the deficiencies with LANL at a meeting on December 7, 1998. Another meeting was held on December 8, 1998 with the LANL staff to discuss the use of confirmatory data from phase I and phase II data for human health and ecological risk screening assessment. LANL agreed to resubmit the Status Report with proposed modifications.

HRMB received the Revised Status Report from LANL on January 1, 1999 and is in the process of reviewing the report and will provide Housing Solutions an update.

HRMB will not issue at any time, an approval letter for building at the site. HRMB will issue statements and approvals related to the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) at the site, any associated required clean up or on position taken by HRMB on residual contaminants left in place and the associated risk to human health or the environment from the residuals.