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U.S. Department of Energy
 Los Alamos Area Office, MS A316
 Environmental Restoration Program
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Date: November 1, 1999
 Refer to: E/ER:99-318



Mr. James Bearzi
 NMED-HRMB
 P.O. Box 26110
 Santa Fe, NM 87502

SUBJECT: APPROVAL AND CONCERNS OF 0-016 VCA REPORT AND THE REVISED 0-016 VCA COMPLETION REPORT

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Los Alamos National Laboratory is in receipt of your September 22, letter regarding the Approval and Concerns of the 0-016 VCA Report and the Revised 0-016 VCA Completion Report. The Environmental Restoration (ER) Program appreciates HRMB's approval for no further action at this site and has taken the following actions to address the two concerns outlined in your letter.

- 1. The potential migration of contaminants present at 0-016 prior to remediation and those remaining post-remediation into Rendija Canyon is a concern. This reach of the canyon should be included in the Canyons Focus Area investigations to be conducted in the future.*

The Canyons Focus Area has added a reach to be investigated in Rendija Canyon.

- 2. The second concern is the off-site transport and disposition of soils contaminated with less than 400 parts per million of lead. It is HRMB's understanding that these contaminated soils were utilized in the regrading and widening of Range Road between Aspen and Diamond Drives and may have been deposited in a watercourse. Although these soils meet EPA-designated human health risk levels, they may pose an excessive risk to the ecological health of the watercourse and terrestrial environment.*

The Laboratory did use some of the processed soils as road fill material as approved by EPA. This fill material was placed more than fifty yards away from a watercourse. Because of the groundcover and topography between the road and the watercourse the area has a very low erosion potential, combined with the fact that the material was placed beneath the present location of the road, it is very unlikely any significant amounts of residual contamination would migrate to the watercourse.

TKWA CANL 1/1071/0/0-016

TL

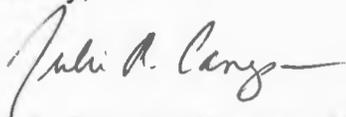


LANL has met with members of your staff as well as discussing the two concerns with Barbara Hoditscheck of the Surface Water Quality Bureau and visiting the site with Ralph Ford-Schmidt of the DOE Oversight Bureau. ER Project personnel also met with the Surface Water Assessment Team (SWAT) regarding this site. At the request of the SWAT, a post-remediation *Surface Water Site Assessment* (AP 2.01) was performed at the site. This evaluation concluded that the site is still a low priority site with little or no erosion taking place as a result of ER activities.

It appeared that both of the Bureau's representatives were satisfied with LANL's responses to the concerns and had no major issues associated with the stabilization efforts associated with the remediation. LANL however, has committed to the stabilization of some of the areas associated with the road fill that shows some evidence of minor rill erosion. The Program will also be informing the county of the importance of maintaining the shoulder of Range Road.

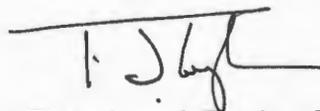
LANL believes that the combined concurrence of your bureau with our no further action request, along with resolving the two issues with the Surface Water Bureau makes this site an excellent candidate for removal from the HSWA Permit by a Class 3 Permit Modification. This request will occur at some point in the future along with other sites which will make this request a cost effective one. Should you have any questions please feel free to call Dave McInroy at 667-0819 or Joe Mose at 667-5808.

Sincerely,



Julie A. Canepa, Program Manager
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Environmental Restoration

Sincerely,



Theodore J. Taylor, Program Manager
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