



Department of Energy
Field Office, Albuquerque
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

*Barbara
are there HSW A
units?
Is this being coordinated
with Brown?
Bando*

SEP 4 1992
OU 1078

Mr. William Honker, Chief
RCRA Permits Branch
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Honker:

The Department of Energy (DOE) received a Notice of Deficiency (NOD) from your office for the RCRA Facility Investigation Work Plan identified as Operable Unit 1078 on August 13, 1992, which required a response within 30 (thirty) days. As a relatively new development, members of the New Mexico Environment Department have expressed an interest in our Environmental Restoration Program and have reviewed and provided comments on this workplan.

DOE and the Los Alamos National Laboratory have been working to develop responses to your concerns, and have discussed the issues with state representatives and Barbara Driscoll of your staff. While many of your concerns have been addressed, several complex issues dealing with access to private property and sampling methodology have yet to be resolved. These unresolved issues are still being worked with members of your staff and members of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). These resolutions will be used as programmatic guidelines once agreed upon by all agencies. Until these several issues are resolved, they are likely to be noted as deficiencies in other Work Plans already received by your office or in Plans currently being developed.

Additional meetings are being scheduled with Barbara Driscoll of your office and Barbara Hoditschek of the Hazardous Waste Section of NMED to deal with these unresolved issues. To respond to the NOD prior to these meetings would seem to be premature. In order to prepare a meaningful response, DOE is requesting a 60 (sixty) day extension for the NOD response.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve Slaten of my staff at (505) 665-5050.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Vozella, Acting Chief
Environment, Safety and Health Branch

LESH:4SS-018

cc:
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Mr. William Honker

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CC:

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Radioactive Materials Bureau.
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