



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

John P. J.
Barbara
Bruce
Its return to
Barbara for
posting

DEC 16 1993

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Ron Curry, Deputy Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

need
2 copies

Dear Mr. Curry:

Please accept this letter as notification that the U. S. Department of Energy and the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) intend to transport tritiated cooling water originating from the Technical Area (TA) 2 Omega West Reactor (OWR) to the TA-53 Radioactive Wastewater Lagoon for disposal by evaporation as recommended in your letter of September 29, 1993. This cooling water is presently stored in an above-ground tank at the TA-50 Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Plant. The volume of this cooling water is approximately 40,000 gallons. It will require about 20 trips to transport the water by tanker truck to TA-53. The tentative schedule is for transport to begin on December 13, 1993.

During LANL's evaluation of OWR cooling water, it was determined that treatment at the TA-50 Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Plant to treat residual radioactive constituents other than tritium, prior to transporting to TA-53, would not improve the quality of the cooling water. In fact, it was determined that running the cooling water through the TA-50 plant would actually increase the radioactive constituents other than tritium due to the configuration and operation of the plant. Using the existing treatment process, the cooling water would pick up additional radioactivity originating from the existing clarifiers and filters at the plant.

On November 29, 1993, representatives of LANL's Waste Management Group and Environmental Protection Group met with Mr. Peter Monahan and Mr. Harvey Decker of the New Mexico Environment Department's Agreement-In-Principle (AIP) staff to review with them LANL's plans to transport the cooling water to the TA-53 Radioactive Wastewater Lagoon. The AIP staff was provided with the latest results concerning the quality of the tritiated cooling water. The cooling water was tested for



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Ron Curry

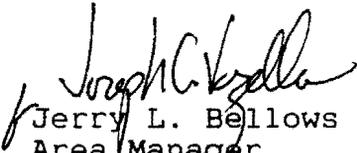
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Resource Conservation and Recovery Act constituents and none were found. Possible treatment of the cooling water at the TA-50 plant resulting in an increase of radioactive constituents prior to transport to the TA-53 lagoon was also discussed and a consensus was reached that this option would not be appropriate.

If you desire any additional information on this matter, please call Joseph Vozella of my staff at 665-5027; or Steven Rae, EM-8, LANL, at 665-1859.

Sincerely,


Jerry L. Bellows
Area Manager

LESH:7JV-151

cc:
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