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

NOV 1 5 1991

Mr. William K. Honker
Hazardous Waste Management Division
United States Environmental Protection Division
Region B
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas   75202-2733

Dear Mr. Honker:

During routine construction at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), a new
Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) was discovered. This unit appears to be
a landfill type disposal area. This landfill was discovered when debris was
unearthed during the construction of a parking lot within Technical Area
(TA-3). It is located west of the Sigma Building (SM-66) and southeast of
the CMR Building (SM-29), at the head of Mortandad Canyon. Interviews have
revealed that this area received construction debris during the 1950s and
1960s.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has reviewed LANL's SWMU report and
interviewed members of the Environmental Restoration Program Office (HSE-13)
as well as members of the Environmental Protection Group (EM-8). Upon
completion of the above sequence of activities, DOE concurs that this
landfill is in fact a new SWMU. As required by the Hazardous and Solid
Waste Amendment provisions of our Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
(RCRA) permit, we are submitting to your office our 15 day written
notification of this discovery. This new SWMU has been assigned the
identification number 3-009(h).

We believe that the waste disposed in this unit poses no immediate threat to
human health or the environment. At this time the size of the fill area is
unknown. It will be further investigated during the Corrective Action
Process within the Operable Unit 1114. The submittal date for the RCRA
Facility Investigation Work Plans for TA-3 is May 1993.

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

Sincerely,

Karl J. Twombly, Chief
Environment, Safety and Health Branch

4RR-002

CC:
K. Sisneros, Directors Office
   Environment Department, Santa Fe, NM 87503

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