

APR 9 9 1994

Mr. Joseph C. Vozella, Chief
Environment, Safety and Health Branch
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Re: Letter to NMED on VCA of mercury SWMU 3-010(a)
Los Alamos National Laboratory (NM0890010515)

Dear Mr. Vozella:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received a copy of your letter to Jim Piatt with the Waste Management Division of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) dated April 12, 1994. EPA is extremely concerned that data related to the investigation of this solid waste management unit (SWMU) 3-010(a) has not been sent to EPA for review; especially in light of the fact that Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is attempting to negotiate cleanup standards for a final remedy with NMED while EPA is the authorized lead under the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) of 1984 to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

The above referenced letter indicates that LANL is proposing to remove all contaminated soil at SWMU 3-010(a) until mercury is found to be below the action level (20 mg/kg) which will be removal of soil to approximately three feet in depth. LANL then proposes to backfill the area with clean soil leaving levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) exceeding 7000 mg/kg at a depth of two meters. This approach as a final remedy is unacceptable to EPA. If LANL chooses to pursue this proposed action, then LANL will be required to reinvestigate the extent of contamination of the TPH in the future, and additional remedies will need to be evaluated.

LANL shall send EPA a copy of all investigation results upon receipt of this letter. Should you have any questions, please contact Barbara Driscoll at (214) 655-7441.

Sincerely,

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W William K. Honker, Chief
RCRA Permits Branch (6H-P)

cc: Benito Garcia, NMED
Jorg Jansen, LANL, M992

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