



BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
(505) 827-2850

JUDITH M. ESPINOSA
SECRETARY

RON CURRY
DEPUTY SECRETARY

1A-3

December 19, 1994

Joseph C. Vozella, Acting Assistant Area Manager
Office of Environment and Projects
Department of Energy, Field Office Albuquerque
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Dear Mr. Vozella:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of your letter dated December 8, 1994, requesting an additional thirty (30) day extension to the ninety day limit at the Sigma Mesa <90 day storage area. The extension would allow time for the (NMED) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to identify a course of action for the disposition of the waste currently stored at the Sigma <90 day site.

Approval for the thirty day (30) extension is granted and shall begin retroactively on December 5, 1994. Please be reminded that 40 CFR §262.34(b) allows for a single thirty (30) extension, but considering the circumstances, I am authorizing an additional extension. If you have any questions please call Mr. Coby Muckelroy of my staff at (505) 827-4308.

Sincerely,

JUDITH M. ESPINOSA
SECRETARY

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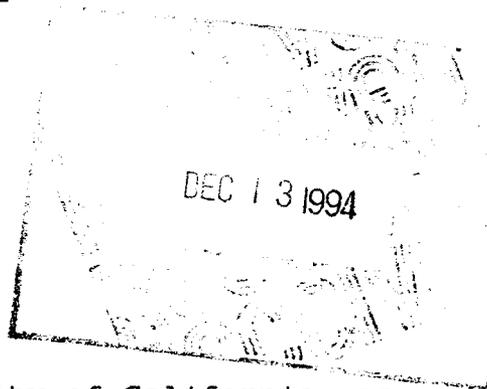
Department of Energy

Field Office, Albuquerque
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

DEC - 8 1994

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Coby Muckelroy, Enforcement Program
Manager
RCRA Inspections
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials
Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
525 Camino de los Marquez
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502



Dear Mr. Muckelroy:

The Department of Energy and the University of California, as maintenance and operations contractor for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), request a 30-day extension for storage of mixed waste at a less than 90-day storage area located in Technical Area (TA) 3 on Sigma Mesa. The purpose of this request is to allow continued temporary storage of hazardous waste generated by the Environmental Restoration (ER) Project. This is the second 30-day extension requested for this temporary storage area. The regulatory citation for this request is found in the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20 NMAC 4.1) Part 262.34(b).

The first request for a 30-day extension was granted by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on November 3, 1994. The 30-day extension period started on November 4, 1994. The extension was granted as a result of the faxed extension request sent by Mr. Tony Grieggs, Hazardous and Solid Waste Group, LANL.

The waste stored in the less than 90-day storage area was generated within the Los Alamos townsite. The generation site is considered offsite, although it is located within the historical boundary of LANL. We are currently proposing a permit modification to NMED and hope to have resolution allowing onsite storage and treatment by LANL.

The less than 90-day storage area contains vitrified clay pipe from the former Western Sanitary Waste Line, known as Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 1-001(s).

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Mr. Coby Muckelroy

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Transporting any waste from the offsite SWMUs and AOCs to an onsite location is perceived by LANL to be the most responsible means of dealing with the waste. Waste brought onsite can be kept in more secure locations than those offsite. We believe that waste from ER offsite locations can be appropriately managed at onsite permitted and interim status RCRA Treatment and Storage Units.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in obtaining a 30-day retroactive extension for the 90-day storage limit for the waste at TA-3. We look forward to the resolution of this issue.

If you have any questions, please call Jon Mack of my staff at (505) 665-5026, or me at (505) 665-5027.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Vozella
Acting Assistant Area Manager
Office of Environment and
Projects

LAAMEP:9JM-107

cc:

- B. Driscoll
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- B. Swanton, NMED, AIP, LANL,
MS-J993