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HSWA LANL G/M/5/98  
7A03

**CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

June 12, 1998

Mr. Theodore Taylor, Area Manager  
Los Alamos Area Office-Department of Energy  
528 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Dr. John Browne, Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, MS-A100  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: LANLs Request to Use Water to Facilitate Circulation in R-12**

Dear Mr. Taylor and Dr. Browne:

This letter is a formal response to a verbal request and letter dated April 8, 1998 from Dave Broxton of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), regarding the "Use of Water to Facilitate Circulation in R-12". The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) RCRA Permits Management Program (RPMP) was contacted by phone in early April by Dave Broxton to request the introduction of small volumes (2-3 gallons/minute-not to exceed 5 gallons/minute) of municipal well water to facilitate air-circulation of drill cuttings in clay-rich zones encountered in the drilling of regional aquifer well R-12. RPMP staff verbally approved the use of water to improve air-circulation on April 8, 1998.

RPMP has no issue with the introduction of small volumes of municipal well water to improve air-circulation. RPMP requires that an account of all water introduced to the hole be kept and samples be collected for water quality before and after the clay-rich zones are penetrated. However, RPMP requires verbal notification within 24 hours followed by a written notification within fifteen (15) calendar days indicating the circumstances that warranted the introduction of municipal well water to the hole. Any instance of introduction of water to improve air-circulation shall also be documented in the final well completion report for each well. This letter will cover any future request for the introduction of water to improve air-circulation in the drilling of other regional aquifer wells that are part of the implementation of the Hydrogeologic Workplan.



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Should you have any questions concerning this letter or other related issues please contact myself or Mr. John Kieling, RPMP's LANL Facility Manager, at (505) 827-1558.

Sincerely,



Robert S. (Stu) Dinwiddie, Ph. D., Manager  
RCRA Permits Management Program  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

RSD:jry

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