



GARY E. JOHNSON  
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau  
2044 Galisteo Street  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502  
(505) 827-1557  
Fax (505) 827-1544



PETER MAGGIORE  
SECRETARY  
PAUL R. RITZMA  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

1/11/99 03-0106

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 1, 1999

John C. Browne, Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, MS A100  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Theodore Taylor, Project Manager  
DOE LAAO  
528 35<sup>th</sup> Street MS A316  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

RE: Response to "Response to the Notice of Deficiency for the RFI Report for SWMU 3-010(a)",  
Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM 0890010515

Dear Dr. Browne and Mr. Taylor:

The RCRA Permits Management Program (RPMP) of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has reviewed the Response to the Notice Of Deficiency for the RFI Report for SWMU 3-010(a) referenced by EM/ER: 96-046 and dated February 8, 1996 and is requiring further characterization. Because contaminants were found in the saturated zone and the potential exposure and/or migration pathway has not been adequately determined, the RPMP believes that additional work is needed to characterize potential contamination in the saturated zone and sediments in order to determine exposure and/or migration pathways.

The concerns resulting from our review of the response are: 1) groundwater was encountered and monitor well MW-1 was installed yet the well was not developed or sampled, 2) data from sediment samples collected in the channel near the SWMU is from composited samples, 3) evidence supporting or not supporting contaminant pathway based on seep and storm water samples is insufficient.

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) must submit a plan for fully characterizing the groundwater including development and subsequent sampling of MW-1, and water flowing from seep areas and standing water in channel bottom resulting from seep discharge. Standing water in the channel should also be sampled and characterized further by comparing to storm water data from the channel above the SWMU. The plan must also

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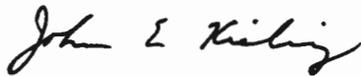
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include characterization of sediment that is potentially affected by SWMU 3-010(a). LANL should use the current "canyons approach" to collect non-composite sediment samples.

Regardless of the results of this further characterization, a No Further Action will not be granted for this site prior to the canyons investigation of the drainage and tributary to Two mile Canyon and Upper Two Mile Canyon.

The plan must be submitted within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of this letter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (505) 827-1558, extension 1012 or Chris Hanlon-Meyer at the NMED Department Of Energy Oversight Bureau at (505) 827-1536.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling  
Acting Manager  
RCRA Permits Management Program

JK:chm

cc:

J. Bearzi, NMED HRMB  
J. Young, NMED HRMB  
P. Young, NMED HRMB  
J. Parker, NMED DOE OB  
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993  
J. Davis, NMED SWQB  
M. Leavitt, NMED GWQB  
D. Neleigh, EPA 6PD-N  
J. Vozella, DOE LAAO, MS A316  
J. Canepa, LANL EM/ER, MS M992  
M. Kirsch, EM/ER, MS M992  
D. McInroy, LANL EM/ER, MS M992  
File: Reading and HSWA LANL 1/1114/3-010(a)