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State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

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DEPUTY SECRETARY

*Approved by
ER Project Office
4.10.00*

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H. J. JOHNSON

April 4, 2000

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

Theodore J. Taylor, Project Manager
Los Alamos Area Office
Department of Energy
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

RE: AREA OF CONTAMINATION APPROVAL
16-021(c)-99 INTERIM MEASURES ACTIVITIES
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
NM0890010515
HRMB-LANL-00-006

APR 19 2000

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Dear Dr. Browne and Mr. Taylor:

The New Mexico Environment Department's Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) has reviewed your letter dated March 29, 2000 (E/ER:00-071) regarding the identification of an Area of Contamination (AOC) at Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 16-021(c)-99. HRMB approves Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL's) designation of the AOC boundary for SWMU 16-021(c)-99. Based on discussions between LANL and HRMB staff regarding the Interim Measures (IM) activities, the AOC will be used for the consolidation, segregation and staging of soils excavated during the current IM. HRMB wishes to emphasize that soil containing hazardous constituents that will be leaving the AOC for placement elsewhere should meet applicable Land Disposal Restrictions (LDRs) before land disposal.

LANL should focus the IM operational areas within the AOC to minimize any chance of spreading additional contamination from the pond area and drainage to the rest of the AOC. The AOC will remain following the current IM activities. Unlike the Potential Release Site (PRS) boundary referenced in your correspondence, the delineation of this AOC boundary creates a management unit for corrective action activities. The PRS is a Department of Energy term. The PRS boundary designation has no regulatory implications for the RCRA process. HRMB looks



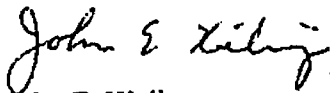
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Dr. Browne and Mr. Taylor
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forward to coordinating further with LANL to resolve additional issues associated with the IM and AOC.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-1558 extension 1012 or Eliza Frank at (505) 827-1558 extension 1048.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Program Manager
RCRA Permits Management Program

JEK:eaf

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File: Reading and HSWA LANL 3/1082/16/16-021(c)