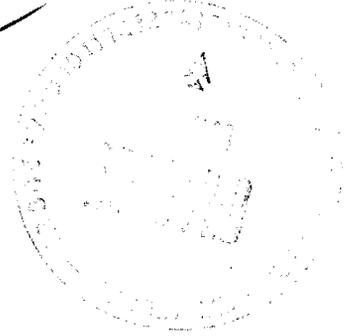




Department of Energy
 Albuquerque Operations Office
 Los Alamos Area Office
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

John K



OCT 09 1998

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Benito Garcia, Chief
 Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2044 Galisteo Street, Building A
 P. O. Box 26110
 Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Withdrawal of Technical Area (TA) 15
 Open Detonation Site

The purpose of this letter is to request removal of the TA-15 Open Detonation (OD) site from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) list of active Treatment, Storage and Disposal (TSD) Units. This issue was discussed with John Kieling of your staff during our August monthly meeting, and is based on the fact that this site has not been used for the treatment of explosive wastes by detonation. The site was initially identified as a TSD unit at LANL to allow for flexibility in handling waste explosives generated from various experiments. With the passage of time, the advent of new regulations, fees, and changes in various programs, it has been determined by the Dynamic Experimentation Division (DX) that this site will not be used for waste treatment activities. Enclosed is a certification statement that the OD treatment unit has never been used to treat hazardous waste.

Following is a brief history of the site and its activities to assist you in reviewing this request:

TA-15 is located on a mesa that is bifurcated by Potrillo Canyon, and is primarily a firing site with supporting offices where research is conducted with various types of explosives (LANL, 1993a). Mesa-top elevations at TA-15 range from approximately 6,800 to 7,280 feet. The OD thermal treatment unit at TA-15 is located near TA-15-184 and covers approximately 17,663 square feet. The unit is used for non-treatment related experimental test detonations (i.e. shots). This OD site is a RCRA Interim Status site, but no hazardous wastes have ever been treated there.

If NMED agrees to withdraw the TA-15 OD site, LANL also wishes to request the withdrawal of the permit application/modification for TA-15, which was submitted for NMED's consideration in October 1997 as part of a package of OB/OD Units at TAs-14, 15, 36, and 39.



4235

LANL TA-15 98

R

Benito Garcia

2

OCT 09 1998

If you should have any questions concerning this request, please call either Jack Ellvinger at (505) 667-0633 or me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,



H. L. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment

LAAME:3JP-091

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

John Kieling

Permits Management Section

Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

New Mexico Environment Department

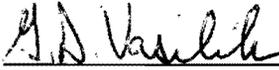
2044 Galisteo Street, Building A

P. O. Box 26110

Santa Fe, NM 87505

CERTIFICATION

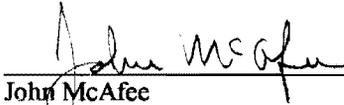
I hereby certify that there has been no mixed or hazardous waste treated at TA-15 open detonation site (RCRA Interim Status site).



Gerald Vasilik
DX-4 ES&H Officer

8/28/98

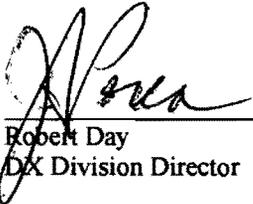
Date



John McAfee
DX-4 Group Leader

8/28/98

Date



Robert Day
DX Division Director

08/28/98

Date