

Tom



GARY E. JOHNSON
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State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

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PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

RED TA 15/99

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

October 26, 1999

Mr. David A. Gurule, Area Manager
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

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

RE: Transfer and Deferral of Corrective Action at Technical Area 15 Open Detonation Unit

Dear Mr. Gurule and Dr. Browne:

The Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) of the New Mexico Environment Department is in receipt of the February 16, 1999 letter from the Department of Energy Los Alamos Area office (DOE/LAAO). The February 16, 1999 letter is a formal request to remove the Interim Status Open Detonation (OD) site at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Technical Area (TA) 15 from the LANL Part B application, and transfer it to the Corrective Action program. DOE/LAAO has provided certification, dated 8/28/98, that this unit has never treated hazardous or mixed waste.

HRMB understands that this unit is currently used for experimentation with high explosives (HE), which is not considered treatment of hazardous waste. HRMB hereby approves the transfer of the TA-15 OD unit to the Corrective Action program, and defers Corrective Action activity until HE experimentation is terminated. Corrective Action will then be implemented under the requirements for a Solid Waste Management Unit.

HRMB's position in this matter does not affect the regulatory status of OD units where detonation has been used as a means of disposal.

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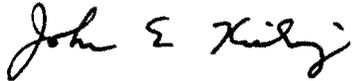


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Mr. Gurule and Dr. Browne
October 26, 1999
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If there are any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-1558 x 1012.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling, Acting Manager
RCRA Permits Management Program

JEK/mjc

cc: James P. Bearzi, Chief, HRMB
Michael Chacón, NMED HRMB
Pam Young, NMED HRMB
David Neleigh, EPA (6PD-N)
Herman Ledoux, DOE LAAO, MS A316
Jody Plum, DOE LAAO, MS A316
Jack Ellvinger, LANL ESH-19, MS K490
Julie Canepa, LANL ER, MS M992
David McInroy, LANL ER, MS M992
Michelle Kirsch, LANL ER, MS M992
File: Reading and Red LANL TA-15 '99

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