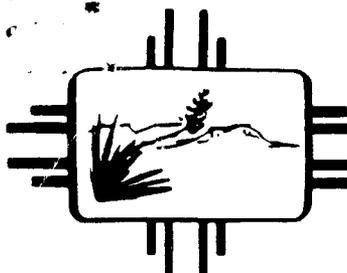


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C45 5/21/90



New Mexico Health and Environment Department

May 15, 1990

MARALYN BUDKE
Acting Secretary

CARLA L. MUTH
Deputy Secretary

MICHAEL J. BURKHART
Deputy Secretary

RICHARD MITZELFELT
Director

Dr. Paul Schumann
U.S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, NM 87544

TA-16

Dear Dr. Schumann:

This letter is to confirm our conversations regarding the closure at TA-16.

Based on the sampling data faxed to the Environmental Improvement Division (EID) on Tuesday, May 8, 1990, the EID conducted a risk assessment for tetrachloroethylene. The calculations are attached. The acceptable range of risk, as designated by the Environmental Protection Agency, runs from 10^{-4} to 10^{-7} which corresponds to one death from cancer per 10,000-10,000,000 exposed persons. The incremental risk derived from 29 ppb of tetrachloroethylene was 2.96×10^{-8} which indicates that this amount of tetrachloroethylene is a couple of orders of magnitude less than the level of concern. Consequently, the EID has determined that the residues of tetrachloroethylene found in sample 12 do not present a threat to the environment or human health and you may proceed with closure without further excavation.

I would like to iterate our concern over the rate of spike recovery that accompanied sample 12. The one spike that was recovered at a very low rate was the tetrachloroethylene spike. If the calculations had indicated a possible level of concern, we would have had to require that you resample that area.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-2934.

Yours truly,

A. Elizabeth Gordon, Ph.D.

A. Elizabeth Gordon, Ph.D.
Permitting Supervisor

AEG/aeg

cc: John Krueger, LANL
Marc Sides, EPA-Region 6

revised data with closure plan
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT DIVISION
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503



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