



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

FEB 15 1996



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

Dear Mr. Garcia:

The purpose of this letter is to modify the request for and location of installation for the propane burners and weather covers proposed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Technical Area (TA) 16 open burn units TA-16-387 Flash Pad and TA-16-394 Oil/Solvent Burn Tray. Per an October 2, 1995 letter from Mr. Joseph Vozella of the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) to you, LANL requested upgrades to these open burn units.

Following the request, a number of discussions were held between LANL and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) concerning the proximity of the TA-16-387 Flash Pad to the Materials Disposal Area (MDAP), which is under review for closure. As a result of these meetings, NMED proposed that LANL move the Flash Pad operations to a different location at the TA-16 Burn Grounds. The TA-16-387 Flash Pad would be used as a treatment option for the MDAP closure, and would be closed at the termination of the MDAP closure.

The rationale for the request concerned the potential for re-contamination of the cleaned up MDAP location by the continued operation of the TA-16-387 Flash Pad once the MDAP was fully closed. The proposal was discussed among operating and Environmental Restoration (ER) groups at LANL and through several meetings a strategy to accommodate the NMED proposal was formulated.

This strategy was presented to the permitting program of the Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau of NMED on December 15, 1995. They accepted the proposal and it was agreed that the permit application submitted June 1995 for TA-16 would be revised to include the movement of the Flash Pad operations and the Oil/Solvent Burn Tray operations to the TA-16-388 Burn Tray location, which is currently used for chunk High Explosives (HE) burns.

These changes would provide for the TA-16-387 Flash Pad to be used as a treatment option for the MDAP and subsequent closure of the TA-16-387 Flash Pad. The new Flash Pad and Oil/Solvent Burn Tray location at TA-16-388 would be equipped with the propane burner and weather cover upgrades. These burners and covers are similar to those discussed in the initial LANL request for TA-16-387 and TA-16-394 (October 2, 1995). The TA-16-388 Flash Pad operations would treat operations and environmental remediation wastes for HE, and would run concurrent to TA-16-387 flashing operations for the duration of the MDAP closure. The TA-16-394 Oil/Solvent Burn Tray would be scheduled for closure according to the LANL ER schedule.



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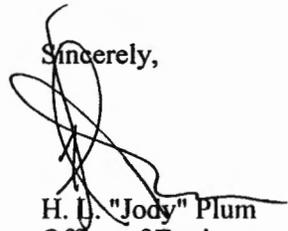
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These outlined changes will be described in revisions to the TA-16 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B Permit Application during Fiscal Year 1996. Concurrently, a review of this operation will be performed for the possibility of additional air quality permitting requirements. These changes also accommodate the NMED proposal, while allowing for the requested technology upgrades that will prevent pollution, reduce emissions, and make the Burn Ground operations more efficient.

We will discuss these issues and time frames required to complete this work in our regularly scheduled meeting with NMED staff February 29, 1996. If you need further information, please contact me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,



H. U. "Jody" Plum  
Office of Environment and Projects

LAAMEP:7HJP-016

cc:

B. Hoditschek  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

C. Williams  
Air Pollution Control Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2048 Galisteo St.  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

bcc:

S. Dinwiddie  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502  
H. Haynes, Office of Counsel, LAAO  
S. Fong, AAMEP, LAAO  
J. Rochelle, LC, LANL, MS-A187  
J. Ellvinger, ESH-19, LANL, MS-K490  
H. Noskin, ESH-19, LANL, MS-K490  
P. Shanley, ESH-19, LANL, MS-K490  
D. McInroy, EM/ER, LANL, MS-M992  
D. Hemphill, ESA-WMA, LANL, MS-C930  
C. Sandoval, ESA-WMA, LANL, MS-C930  
A. Batson, ESH-17, LANL, MS-J978