



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
2044 Galisteo
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
(505) 827-1557
Fax (505) 827-1544

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Handwritten: To Benito
Handwritten: Thompson
Handwritten: Terri D -



MARK E. WEIDLER
SECRETARY
EDGAR T. THORNTON, III
DEPUTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED **RECEIVED**

DEC 10 1996

NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 5, 1996

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

Mr. Jorg Jansen, Program Manager
Environmental Restoration
Los Alamos National Laboratory
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

**RE: RFI REPORT FOR POTENTIAL RELEASE SITES IN TA-16
SEPTEMBER 1996**

Dear Mr. Taylor and Mr. Jansen:

The Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has reviewed the above-mentioned document submitted by the Department of Energy/Los Alamos National Laboratory (DOE/LANL) and has the following comments regarding the use of field screening methodology and the investigation of potential impacts to the ground water:

- NMED HRMB questions the sole use of field methods such as spot kits and RDX immunoassay tests to estimate the lateral extent of contamination within the surface and near-surface at the TA 16. According to the document, DOE/LANL will utilize field screening techniques to bound the lateral extent of the suspected contamination. DOE/LANL shall validate the lateral extent of contamination as estimated by the field screening techniques by using fixed laboratory analytical methods.

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- DOE/LANL shall install monitoring wells along the drainage from the steam plant outfall to Cañon de Valle in order to address impacts to shallow, perched ground water.
- DOE/LANL shall site deep boreholes only after the evaluation of existing data from tracer tests, mesa-top saturated alluvium, et cetera.
- DOE/LANL shall investigate the presence of shallow, perched ground water within the alluvium of Cañon de Valle. NMED recommends the installation of four monitoring wells in the following locations: west of SWSC Spring, between SWSC Spring and Burning Ground Spring; between Burning Ground Spring and MDA-P, and east of MDA-P.

The new due date for the required Corrective Measures Study Workplan for the potential release sites in TA-16 shall be 60 days after the completion and submittal of the RFI Phase II report.

Should you or your staff have any questions concerning these comments, please contact either myself or Ms. Teri Davis at 505/827-1558.

Sincerely,



Robert S. ("Stu") Dinwiddie, Manager
RCRA Permits Management Program

RSD:kth

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cc: T. Davis, NMED HRMB
T. Glatzmaier, DDEES/ER, MS M992
D. Griswold, AL-ERD, MS A906
E. Kelley, Ph. D., NMED WWMD
M. Leavitt, NMED GWQB
D. McInroy, EM/ER, MS M992
D. Neleigh, EPA, 6PD-N
S. Pierce, NMED SWQB
L. Soholt, EM/ER, MS M992
J. Vozella, LAAO, MS A316
N. Weber, NMED AIP, MS J993
S. Yanicak, NMED AIP, MS J993
K. Zamora, LAAO, MS A316
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