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11-21-1997  
 16-021(6)  
 16-003(2)



Date: February 26, 1997  
 Refer to: EM/ER:97-041

Mr. Benito Garcia  
 NMED-HRMB  
 P.O. Box 26110  
 Santa Fe, NM 87502

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NMED LETTER CONCERNING THE RFI REPORT FOR PRSs IN TA-16 (DECEMBER 5, 1996)**

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Los Alamos National Laboratory and Department of Energy (DOE) representatives met with representatives of the Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on February 14, 1997. The intent of the meeting was to discuss the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation (RFI) Report for Technical Area (TA) 16 potential release sites that was submitted on September 30, 1997. HRMB representatives requested a letter summarizing the responses to their concerns. The responses are provided below and each NMED-HRMB comment is restated.

- "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 methods by using fixed laboratory analytical methods."

**DOE/LANL response:** DOE/LANL concur. DOE/LANL will submit at least four laboratory samples per lateral boundary traverse.

- "DOE/LANL shall install monitoring wells along the drainage from the steam plant outfall to Canon de Valle in order to address impacts to shallow, perched ground water."

**DOE/LANL response:** DOE/LANL concur. A monitoring well is scheduled for that drainage in the RFI Report (see Subsection 5.2.11.2.5).

- "DOE/LANL shall site deep boreholes only after the evaluation of existing data from tracer tests, mesa-top saturated alluvium, et cetera."



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**DOE/LANL response:** DOE/LANL will use all data available and will consult with NMED/HRMB prior to siting any deep boreholes. Because the tracer study data schedule is inherently uncertain DOE/LANL may not be able to wait for these results.

- "DOE/LANL shall investigate the presence of shallow perched ground water within the alluvium of Canon 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."

**DOE/LANL response:** DOE/LANL will install four monitoring wells in the alluvium of Canon de Valle. The locations proposed in the RFI Report (see Subsection 5.2.11.2.5) include three out of the four above-mentioned locations (no well is scheduled between SWSC and Burning Ground Springs) and a well upgradient from the TA-16-260 outfall discharge area. Actual locations will also be constrained by the accessibility of all of these sites with a drill rig.

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

**DOE/LANL response:** DOE/LANL concur. The RFI Phase II report is currently scheduled for delivery to NMED-HRMB in December 1997.

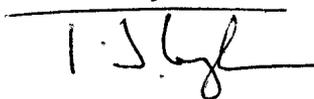
Thank you for providing a rapid response to the above document. We appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with NMED staff. Should you have any further questions, please contact Roy Michelotti at (505) 665-7444 or Joe Mose at (505) 667-5808.

Sincerely,



Jorg Jansen, Program Manager  
LANL/ER Project

Sincerely,



Theodore J. Taylor, Program Manager  
DOE/LAAO

JJ/TT/rfr

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