



Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

AUG 29 1997



CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

7A 16
Mr. Stuart Dinwiddie
Program Manager, Permitting
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo Street, Building A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Dinwiddie:

Subject: Clarification of Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) Request for a Change in Review Status for the Technical Area (TA) 16 Permit Application

The purpose of this letter is to clarify a previously submitted letter requesting that the review status of the permit application for TA-16 be changed. After reading the response letter from NMED dated July 10, 1997, it became evident that our intent was not communicated effectively. We immediately called John Keiling; he followed up on this issue and requested a second letter clarifying the first.

Initially, it was thought the application for TA-16 would modify the existing permit due to the presence of the TA-16 incinerator contained in it. Upon studying this issue, it became apparent this was not feasible.

The current permit expires in November 1999, with the renewal application due in May 1999. LANL plans to submit the renewal package in January 1999. In order to leave the time necessary to develop an application, we will have to begin work on the renewal package in FY 1998. This corresponds to the time during which we should be receiving approval for the existing application submitted for TA-16.

It does not make sense to overlap these two applications, pay a modification and a permit fee, and lose the modification after approximately one year's duration. Additionally, we need to get the permit approved for TA-16 so we can proceed with the MDA-P cleanup under the Environmental Restoration Program.

When we discussed this at the April 1997 meeting, you agreed with us and suggested that we submit a request for a change in the review status. That generated the previously discussed letter that did not communicate our intentions very well. This letter hopefully clarifies that previously submitted request.



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Stuart Dinwiddie

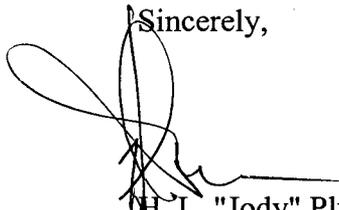
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Our request is:

- Continue the processing of the TA-16 permit application at this time.
- Allow this TA to be the first TA module to the LANL permit as we have jointly worked out in our permitting strategy for LANL.
- Process this application as quickly as possible so the construction at TA-16 can be covered by a permit and the cleanup of the MDA-P site can progress by the Environmental Restoration Project as planned and agreed.
- We will decide whether or not to seek a permit for the TA-16 incinerator when the renewal for the permit comes due.
- If it is decided to seek a renewal of the permit for the incinerator, we will submit a modification to the TA-16 module of the permit at the time of renewal.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. With your help we will be able to develop a reasonable cost effective permit. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please feel free to contact me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,



H. L. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment

LAAMEP:3JP-052

cc:

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
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