

TA-16



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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PETER MAGGIORE
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CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 18, 2002

Dr. John Browne, Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A100
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Mr. Mat Johansen, Project Manager
Los Alamos Area Office
Department of Energy
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF INTERIM MEASURES PLAN FOR 16-021(c)-99
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID # NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-00-006

Dear Dr. Browne and Mr. Johansen:

The Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB) of the New Mexico Environment Department reviewed the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) interim measures (IM) plan for consolidated potential release site (PRS) 16-021(c)-99, dated February 2000, (referenced by LA-UR-99-6767 and ER19990135). HWB approves the IM plan and supporting documentation, as outlined below. The goal of the IM was to safely remove as much source term as possible by excavating soils and sediments from the pond area and drainage channel of PRS 16-021(c).

IM activities proceeded at risk with verbal approval from HWB and through regular communication among a high performing team (HPT), which was created in January 2000 and consists of representatives from NMED, LANL and the Department of Energy (DOE). Through the efforts of the HPT and from activity summaries in the monthly corrective measures study



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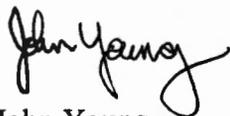
(CMS) progress reports, decisions were sufficiently resolved to allow the project to proceed without delays, with exception of Cerro Grande fire in May 2000.

In general, descriptions of IM activities were simplified to expedite submittal of the plan. Complex issues were further addressed and documented in the monthly CMS progress reports and in later correspondence regarding a contained-in determination, delineation of a corrective action area of contamination (AOC), authorization to blend explosive soils during excavation, final disposition of IM-generated wastes, and the results of pilot studies. Significant correspondence is briefly summarized below:

- 12/7/99 "Request for 'no longer contained-in' determination for solid waste management unit 16-021(c)-99, the 260 outfall" from LANL/DOE.
- 1/7/00 "Contained-in determination for the IM for source-term removal at solid waste management unit 16-021(c)" from HWB.
- 3/29/00 "Clarification of AOC for PRS 16-021(c)-99 IM" from LANL/DOE.
- 4/4/00 "AOC approval for 16-021(c)-99 IM activities" from HWB.
- 6/5/00 "Request to allow in-situ blending of potentially reactive soils at solid waste management unit 16-021(c)-99" from LANL/DOE.
- 7/12/00 "Authorization for in-situ blending during 16-021(c)-99 IM activities" from HWB.

IM activities are finished and LANL will note significant deviations from the plan in the IM report. If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 428-2538 or Eliza Frank at (505) 428-2539.

Sincerely,



John Young
LANL Corrective Action Project Leader
Permits Management Program

JRY:eaf

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cc: J. Parker, NMED DOE OB
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J. Davis, NMED SWQB
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T. Grieggs, LANL/ESH-19, MS K490
file: Reading and LANL TA 16 (16-021(c))