



TA16

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



SEP 13 2005

Mr. John Young
New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



Dear Mr. Young:

Subject: Written Verification of Phone Conversation with David Cobrain Concerning
TA-16-340 Building Debris on Sigma Mesa

Last week David Gregory and Gene Turner of the Department of Energy (DOE), and Dave McInroy and Jack Ellvinger of Los Alamos National Laboratory, Environmental Stewardship Division (LANL-ENV) spoke with David Cobrain of the New Mexico Environment Department's Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB). The purpose of the call was to inform the HWB that concrete from the TA-16-340 complex, including several sumps designated as SWMUs and AOCs were inadvertently crushed and staged for disposal at Sigma Mesa. The documented procedures and protocols set in place by LANL and DOE, for decontamination and decommissioning of excess facilities, was not followed.

The debris includes approximately 3,000 cubic yards of broken up concrete from the structures at TA-16-340. This includes seven sumps which are listed as Potential Release Sites (PRS's). Both HE and solvents were used at this facility in the past and operations date back to the 1950's.

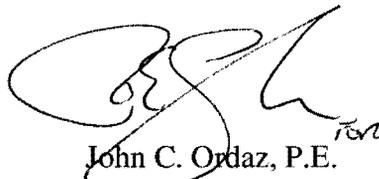
LANL has taken quick action to isolate and contain the debris at the Sigma Mesa site by placing an earthen berm around the material. Over the last several days, LANL personnel have put together a sampling and analysis plan to properly characterize the debris. Fieldwork is underway to collect samples from any ponded water and any sediment produced as a result of precipitation leaching through the debris pile. The samples will be submitted to an off-site contract laboratory for an analytical suite that includes HE, VOCs, SVOCs, TPH-DRO, TPH-GRO, PCBs, TCLP metals and TAL metals.

We expect preliminary analytical results by the end of September. These data will be shared with NMED and will be the basis for our decisions of the appropriate final debris disposal.



We will status you on this issue as new information is obtained and decisions are made. If you have any comments or questions please contact Gene Turner of my staff at (505)667-5794 or Jack Ellvinger, UC, at (505)667-0633.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Ordaz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John C. Ordaz, P.E.
Assistant Manager

Office of Environmental Stewardship

ES: 2GT-013

cc:

G. Turner, ES, LASO

D. Gregory, ES, LASO

L. Cummings, OC, LASO

D. McInroy, ENV-ERS, LANL, MS-M992

K. Hargis, ENV-DO, LANL, MS- J591

E. Louderbough, LC-ESH, LANL, MS- A187