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**CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

March 3, 2000

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

Theodore Taylor, Project Manager  
Los Alamos Area Office  
Department of Energy  
528 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Mail Stop A316  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

**RE: APPROVAL  
18-003(a-h) VOLUNTARY CORRECTIVE MEASURES PLAN  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
NM0890010515**

Dear Dr. Browne and Mr. Taylor:

The New Mexico Environment Department's Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) has reviewed and approves the Voluntary Corrective Measures (VCM) Plan for PRSS 18-003(a-h) (LAUR-99-1167) and the Response to Request for Supplemental Information (dated December 21, 1999 and referenced by EM/ER:99-331).

HRMB recognizes that the VCM work is currently scheduled for fiscal year 2003 and looks forward to coordinating further with LANL on the VCM activities and remediation decisions. HRMB wishes to clarify a few points raised during the Supplemental Information Request process. No response to this letter is needed.

Since the proposed VCM activities are currently postponed, it may be possible in the future for LANL and HRMB to develop decision criteria for the remediation of septic tanks, which could streamline this process. In addition HRMB plans to develop a strategy to deal with active units for which the Environmental Restoration Project requests No Further Action (NFA) determinations. Currently HRMB does not make NFA determinations on active units. The recommendation referred to in NMED comment #25 to reroute the drain lines at 18-003(g) and (h) is one alternative. LANL may want to explore additional alternatives to resolving this "jurisdictional" issue until HRMB has developed a strategy. Lastly, in regards to NMED general



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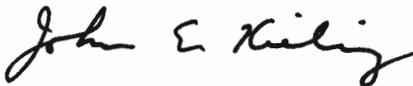
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comment #4, HRMB recommends that residential land use and exposure scenarios be used for screening sites. LANL may also present any other likely scenario. The screening provides an evaluation of additional exposure pathways that may be used to address current as well as possible future exposure scenarios. LANL noted that the final report would present a comparison of sample results to residential screening action levels (SALs). Since the report may not be submitted until 2003, the SALs used at that time should be calculated according to the most current HRMB and/or EPA guidance.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-1558 extension 1012 or Eliza Frank at extension 1048.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling, Acting Program Manager  
RCRA Permits Management Program  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

JEK:eaf

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