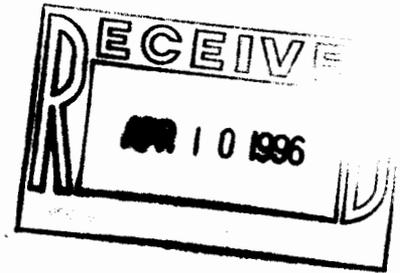


Department of Energy

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

APR 2 1996



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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Coby Muckelroy
Enforcement Program Manager
RCRA Inspections
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-2100

SUBJECT: Request for 30-Day Extension for Storage of Mixed Waste

Dear Mr. Muckelroy,

The purpose of this letter is to request continued temporary storage of TRU mixed waste generated by the Environmental Restoration (ER) Project, Decommissioning activities. The Department of Energy (DOE) and the University of California (UC) for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) request a 30-day extension for storage of mixed waste at a < 90-day storage area located in Technical Area (TA) 21. The regulatory citation for this request is found in the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20 NMAC 4.1) Part 262.34(b).

Decommissioning activities at TA-21-146, 324 were scheduled to be completed by March 29, 1996, allowing for all wastes generated to be moved from the <90 day storage area within 90 days. The work is taking longer than anticipated and is not expected to be completed until mid-April 1996. The waste is generated from work to cleanout exhaust ductwork formerly serving the plutonium processing operations. The TRU mixed waste generated contains plutonium metal that is contaminated with hazardous constituents arsenic, lead, chromium, selenium, and mercury.

This mixed waste was first placed in this < 90-day storage area on January 9, 1996. The 30-day extension for TRU mixed waste stored at this location will end on May 8, 1996.

LANL is requesting a 30-day extension for storage at the <90 day storage area to allow for one, rather than two, shipments of the mixed waste from TA-21 to LANL's TA-54, Area G storage location. This is a safety and cost issue. Movement of the TRU mixed waste requires a road closure. Rather than ship the same wastestream twice, LANL requests that the waste shipment be delayed until all waste is generated. This approach is a safer and more cost effective approach.



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Your consideration of our request to obtain a 30-day extension for the 90-day storage limit for the mixed waste at TA-21 is appreciated. Should you have any questions on this request, please contact me at 665-5027 or Joe Mose of my staff at 667-5808.

Sincerely,

MAT JOHANSEN

Joseph C. Vozella, ^{For}
Assistant Area Manager for Environment and Projects
Los Alamos Area Office

cc: B. Driscoll
RCRA Permits Branch
U.S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Ave., Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

B. Garcia, B. Hoditschek, R. Kern
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New Mexico Environment Department
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N. Weber, B. Swanton
Agreement in Principle, DOE Oversight
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