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CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 18, 1998

Mr. David A. Gurule, Area Manager
Los Alamos Area Office-Department of Energy
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Dr. John C. Browne, Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS-A100
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: Request for the Technical Area 21 In-Situ Vitrification Cold Demonstration Work Plan,
Los Alamos National Laboratory (NM0890010515)**

Dear Mr. Gurule and Dr. Browne:

This letter is to inform Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) that the Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureaus (HRMB) RCRA Permits Management Program (RPMP) after discussions with LANL staff that the in-situ vitrification field demonstration of the contaminated area will be considered an interim measure.

RPMP is also requesting a copy of the cold demonstration work plan for the in-situ vitrification pilot study at Technical Area (TA) 21. RPMP would like to review the process, performance criteria, verification sampling strategy, etc. and discuss any concerns that may arise with the in-situ vitrification technical staff prior to implementation at the selected contaminated site (PRS-21-018(a)). For example, RPMP is concerned that due to the reducing conditions of the molten mass, metallic phases may develop and segregate. Elements such as iron, cobalt, nickel, uranium, etc. may partition in the metallic phase and could "pond" at the base of the molten mass, thus reducing the effectiveness of the vitrification process. Providing the work plan should help familiarize RPMP with the in-situ vitrification process/approach, alleviate many concerns as well as answer questions pertaining to this potential remediation technique.



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Please submit the requested work plan within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of this letter to allow time for RPMP staff to conduct an adequate review prior to implementation of the in-situ vitrification cold demonstration. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call myself at 827-1561 extension 1039 or, John Kieling, RPMPs LANL Facility Manager at 827-1558 extension 1012.

Sincerely,



Robert S. (Stu) Dinwiddie, Ph. D.
RCRA Permits Management Program Manager
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

RSD:jry

cc:

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