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U.S. Department of Energy
 Los Alamos Area Office, MS A316
 Environmental Restoration Program
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
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Date: February 1, 2001
 Refer to: ER2001-0095

H5WA LANL 1/1106/21-029

Mr. John Young, Corrective Action Project Leader
 Permits Management Program
 NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau
 2044 A Galisteo
 Santa Fe, NM 87502

SUBJECT: STATUS OF DP TANK FARM RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT (RCRA) FACILITY INVESTIGATION (RFI) [POTENTIAL RELEASE SITE (PRS) 21-029]

Dear Mr. Young:

As discussed at the January 31, 2001 Environmental Restoration (ER) Project monthly meeting, the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is submitting this letter notifying the New Mexico Environment Department's Hazardous Waste Bureau (NMED-HWB) that several issues have arisen with the implementation of the Phase II RFI Investigation of DP Tank Farm, PRS 21-029. The issues involve deviations from the approved RFI Work Plan (LA-UR-98-4169) and Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) Response (E/ER:99-355). Specifically, our subcontractor did not follow many of the required ER Project Standard Operating Procedures (e.g., 1.04, Rev. 3, "Sample Control and Field Documentation"; 1.05, Rev. 0, "Field Quality Control Samples"; LANL ER-4.04, Rev. 1, "General Borehole Logging"; 3.01, Rev. 1, "Land Surveying Procedures"; 10.11, Rev 0, "Soil Sample Field Screening to meet Radioactive Sample Shipping Requirements"; 12.01, Rev. 3, "Field Logging, Handling, and Documentation of Borehole Material"; etc.). Additionally, locations specified for sample collection in the approved RFI work plan and RSI response were missed or the samples were lost during shipping and the locations were never re-sampled. In addition, some of the analytical results received from the offsite fixed RECRA Laboratory (RECRA) were rejected. The LANL ER Project Leader was notified on January 30, 2001, that between 2 and 30 percent of the results from specific analytical suites were rejected during ER Project data validation due to quality assurance issues at the fixed analytical RECRA Laboratory.

As we discussed with you and your staff, we are in the process of documenting in detail, every deviation from the approved RFI work plan and RSI response. We will subsequently identify and proposed actions to be taken to address the deviations to ensure that the intent of both the approved RFI work plan and RSI response

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(determination of nature and extent) is met to NMED-HWB's satisfaction. Lastly, we will provide a schedule for the completion of these activities. We will submit this information to NMED-HWB within three weeks (no later than February 28, 2001), followed by a meeting with Vicki Maranville to discuss our proposal to address all of the outstanding issues.

We realize the significance of this site, and are moving expeditiously to remedy the situation and complete all outstanding RFI activities in a timely fashion. We also want to acknowledge how much we appreciate all the time and effort you and your staff have already provided during the preparation and implementation of the RFI to date. We are committed to completing the outstanding RFI activities at DP Tank Farm as quickly as possible, once NMED-HWB has approved our approach to address the deviations from the RFI work plan/RSI response and to replace the rejected analytical data.

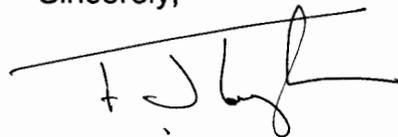
If you have any questions or require any additional information please contact John Hopkins at (505) 667-9551 or Dave McInroy at (505) 665-4557.

Sincerely,



Julie A. Canepa, Program Manager
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Environmental Restoration

Sincerely,



Theodore J. Taylor, Project Manager
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office

JC/TT/PB/ev

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Mr. John Young
ER2001-0095

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February 1, 2001

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