



Date: January 18, 2006
Refer to: ER2006-0028

Mr. James Bearzi
NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

**SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR ACCELERATED CLEANUP/EXPANDED
INVESTIGATION AND REQUEST TO WITHDRAW INVESTIGATION
WORK PLAN FOR UNIT 21-015, MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA B, AT
TECHNICAL ARE 21**



Dear Mr. Bearzi:

Last week, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the University of California (UC) and the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) met with New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) representatives to discuss acceleration of corrective actions at Material Disposal Area B (MDA B). Currently, the determination of final remedy for MDA B is scheduled to follow the corrective measures/corrective implementation process. Key milestones for accomplishing this remedy are included in the Order on Consent with the MDA B Remedy Completion Report scheduled for June 2011.

DOE and LANL propose to implement cleanup in conjunction with the investigation at this site, resulting in a completion date prior to 2011. Consistent with our discussion of last week, DOE and UC request the withdrawal of the Investigation Work Plan approved December 21, 2004, and propose to submit by March 26, 2006, a plan for investigation and accelerated cleanup of MDA B. The new plan will focus on removal, characterization and disposal of all waste from MDA B and will be submitted in lieu of the Investigation Report currently scheduled for March 26, 2006. This plan will describe the technical approach for removal of the waste, an expanded investigation that will include confirmation sampling beneath the waste pits once the waste is removed, location of borings to determine the nature and extent of residual contamination, and a schedule for submittal of

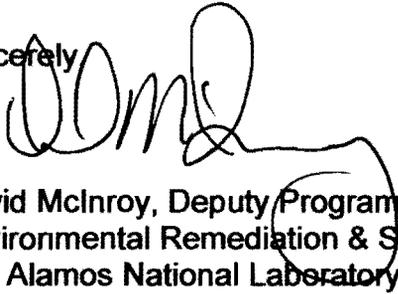


July 21, 2005

the investigation report. This approach will reduce environmental risks at MDA B and complete remediation earlier than currently scheduled.

If you have questions, please contact Bill Criswell at (505) 665-5886 (bcriswell@lanl.gov) or Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 (lwoodworth@doeal.gov).

Sincerely,



David McInroy, Deputy Program Director
Environmental Remediation & Surveillance
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



David Gregory, Federal Project Director
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Site Office

DG/jk

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ENV-ECR File, MS M992
RPF, MS M707
IM-9, MS A150