



Department of Energy

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

MAY 16 1997



CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Emergency Action

The purpose of this letter is to provide the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) with a written description of an emergency action taken at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on May 13, 1997. Following discovery of an 81 millimeter mortar round at Technical Area (TA) 33, the Hazardous Device Team and the Emergency Management and Response Group placed the item in a bomb trailer, transported it to TA-49, and opened it with a shape charge. It was assumed to be and managed as an explosive item; however, subsequent determination indicated that no high explosive material was present. The opening of the shell occurred following discussion (May 13, 1997) between Stu Dinwiddie (NMED) and Alice Barr (LANL).

If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,

H. L. Jody Plum
Office of Environment and Projects

LAAMEP:6JP-028

cc:
Dr. Stu Dinwiddie
Hazardous and Radioactive
Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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