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September 29, 1992

Mr. Jerry L. Bellows, Area Manager
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Are Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544-5000

RE: APPROVAL OF CLOSURE PLAN, TA-35 TSL 125 SURFACE IMPOUNDMENT
NM0890010515

Dear Mr. Bellows:

On July 7, 1992, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued a letter to Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) disapproving the closure plan for the TA-35 TSL 125 surface impoundment and denying clean-closure certification for that unit. To reiterate, NMED disapproved the closure plan and denied clean-closure demonstration because LANL failed to establish that 1) releases from the unit impacting surrounding soils or surface water are below health-based levels and 2) the vertical extent of contamination directly under the unit is known.

NMED has reviewed LANL's response package issued September 4, 1992 to resolve these issues and has the following comments: NMED hereby approves the sampling and analysis plan (response package Enclosure 1) to asses the extent of contamination of surrounding soils and surface water. With respect to issue 2 (above), NMED finds that LANL has adequately demonstrated that the vertical extent of contamination directly under the unit is known and that no contamination remains above health-based levels (response package Enclosure 2).

Enclosed is the approved closure plan for the TA-35 TSL 125 surface impoundment issued by NMED pursuant to the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (HWMR-6), Part VI, Section 40 CFR 265.112 (d)(4). The approved closure plan consists of the Closure Certification Report, Vol I and II, dated 7/31/91 with the September 4, 1992 response package as an addendum. The response package is the only change that was made in finalizing our approval. The effective date of the closure plan approval is September 30, 1992.

Prior to this NMED approval of the closure plan, LANL satisfactorily completed partial closure of the TA-35 TSL 125



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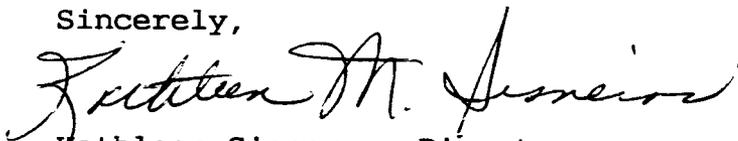
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surface impoundment by removing the impoundment, wastes, and residues as well as decontaminating the drain pipe associated with the structure. LANL must now complete final closure activities of the surface impoundment by implementing the approved sampling and analysis plan, removing any contaminated soil, and confirming that clean closure has been accomplished. According to HWMR-6 Part VI, Section 265.113 (b), LANL must complete final closure activities within 180 days after approval of this closure plan. Because samples will be split with NMED, LANL must provide NMED with a minimum of 15 days notice prior to the scheduled sampling event.

Again, once clean closure is confirmed, NMED will grant a clean-closure equivalency demonstration for the unit and terminate interim status.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Stephanie Stoddard at 827-4308.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Sisneros, Director
Water and Waste Management Division

Enclosure

xc: William K. Honker, US EPA Region 6
Barbara Hoditschek, HRMB
Steve Alexander, HRMB