



**Department of Energy**  
 Albuquerque Operations  
 Los Alamos Area Office  
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



NOV 15 1991

Benito J. Garcia, Chief  
 Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau  
 New Mexico Environment Department  
 P. O. Box 26110  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

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Dear Mr. Garcia:

The Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) received an approved Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Closure Plan for the Scrap Detonation Site at Technical Area 40, on September 13, 1991. The effective date of the Plan is September 30, 1991.

Within the Plan, LANL submitted a schedule that it intended to follow to have the closure completed within the allowable 180 days. However, DOE/LANL has not yet received the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review documentation from DOE Headquarters in Washington, D. C. The categorical exclusion for this proposed closure is in the final approval process within the Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Program Office at Headquarters. The LANL has been given guidance not to proceed with this closure until the categorical exclusion documentation has been received by the facility. For this reason we will not be able to meet the sampling deadline that is depicted on Figure 6.1 in the plan. We are optimistic that we will meet the other significant milestones that are described on page one within section 6 of the Plan. The Environmental Assessments Section within LANL's Environmental Protection Group hopes to receive this documentation within three to four weeks.

The LANL will proceed with this closure immediately upon the receipt of the NEPA documentation or verbal approval from DOE Headquarters. This delay will in no way affect the final closure date of the unit.

Should you have any questions please call Steve Slaten of my staff, at 665-5050.

Sincerely,

*Jerry L. Bellows*  
 Jerry L. Bellows  
 Area Manager

LESH:2SS-031

- cc:  
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*TK*