



Department of Energy

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

MAY 19 1993

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Barbara Hoditschek
Permit Program Manager
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Ms. Hoditschek:

On February 10, 1993, a letter was delivered to you from my office explaining closure activities and strategies proposed for the Technical Area (TA) 40 Scrap Detonation Site. This was in response to your December 17, 1992 letter, which was addressed to Jerry Bellows, requesting documentation supporting the closure of the TA-40 Scrap Detonation Site. Within this letter, I described the events that lead to the development of an amendment to the approved Closure Plan.

Enclosed please find two copies of the proposed amendment. The Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Laboratory are eager to complete this closure. We will, however, postpone future activities until your review and approval of the amendment or until we receive comments on the plan from your office.

It should be brought to your attention that within the February 10, 1993 letter, it was stated that *during the various sampling phases of this closure, hazardous constituents were detected above health-based risk levels.* This statement should have read, *hazardous constituents were detected above the proposed Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Subpart B action levels.* As you will read in the amendment, three of the five areas where hazardous constituents were detected have been proposed for remediation without further study. Two of the areas, however, will require additional sampling to support a risk assessment at each area. These risk assessments are required to determine if remediation is necessary at the sites. The risk assessments will be performed in accordance with Section 4.6, Site Decontamination Criteria, within the approved Closure Plan.



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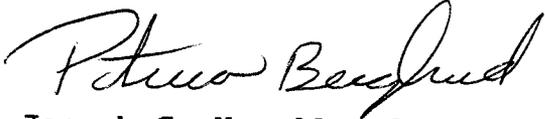
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Barbara Hoditschek

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Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Steve Slaten of my staff at 665-5050.

Sincerely,


for Joseph C. Vozella, Acting Chief
Environment, Safety, and Health
Branch

LESH:7SS-029

Enclosure (2)

cc w/o enclosure:

J. Shipley, AETO, LANL,
MS-F641
T. Gunderson, EM-DO, LANL,
MS-J591
K. Armstrong, EM-DO, LANL,
MS-J591 (A.I. #25)
K. Hargis, EM-8, LANL,
MS-K490
J. White, EM-8, LANL,
MS-K490
R. Vocke, EM-13, LANL,
MS-M992
P. Aamodt, EM-13, LANL,
MS-M992
D. McInroy, EM-13, LANL,
MS-M992
A. Merayo, EM-13, LANL,
MS-M992 (A.I. #25)
S. Brown, LC, LANL, MS-A187
CRM-4, LANL, MS-A150
RPF, LANL, MS-M707
K. Bitner, ERPO, AL