

TA-49



Solid Waste Regulatory Compliance
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop K490
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 667-0666/Fax (505) 667-5224

Date: August 3, 2004
Refer To: RRES- SWRC:04-053

HAND CARRIED
CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

John Young
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303



Dear Mr. Young:

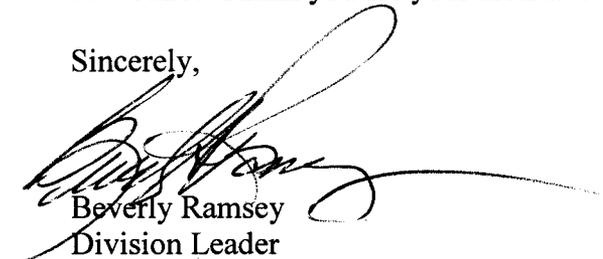
This letter is to provide you with a brief summary of actions taken by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to open a damaged compressed gas cylinder. These actions were performed following a conversation between you and Alice Barr of my staff on July 27, 2004 during which you concurred with LANL's proposed approach. The cylinder was opened on August 2, 2004 without incident.

The following describes how the cylinder became compromised and was subsequently managed:

Following a lightning strike on July 23, 2004 at Technical Area 49, smoke was seen in an area that stored a first aid cart with a radio on top. A fire had been initiated when lightning passed through the electrical system that the radio was connected to. The burning radio then ignited the contents of the first aid cart that contained a small cylinder of medical oxygen, approximately 1 foot long by 3 inches in diameter. Once the fire was extinguished, the cylinder was evaluated and determined to be unsafe to handle. LANL's Hazardous Device Team remotely placed the cylinder within a containment area constructed of railroad ties and used the disruptor device to knock the valve off with a 29 millimeter steel slug. The opened cylinder and valve were then added to LANL's scrap metal being accumulated for recycling.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Alice Barr at 667-0820. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,


Beverly Ramsey
Division Leader



4044



Mr. John Young
SWRC:04-053

-2-

August 3, 2004

BR:AB:vc

Enc. a/s

Cy: B. Ramsey, LANL, RRES-DO, MS J591
A. Grieggs, LANL, RRES-SWRC, MS K490
F. Bolton, LANL, HAZMAT, MS K542
J. Vozella, LASO, MS A316
G. Turner, LASO, MS A316
IM-5, LANL, MS A150
RRES-SWRC File, LANL, MS K490

