



TA 50

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

*File*



MAR 24 1987

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Michael Burkhart, Director  
 N.M. Environmental Improvement Division  
 P.O. Box 968  
 Santa Fe, NM 87504-0968

RECEIVED  
 MAR 24 1987

GROUND WATER/HAZARDOUS WASTE  
 BUREAU

Dear Mr. Burkhart:

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Part A and B hazardous waste permit application, revised November 1986, that is on file with the Environmental Improvement Division (EID) is accurate, complete, and correct. These documents were prepared in accordance with State and Federal regulations and with the assistance of numerous Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance manuals. Furthermore, both the Part A and B and the DOE's November 13, 1986 letter responding to the EID's Notice of Violation dated October 14, 1986 verify DOE's belief that the incinerator has not discharged a hazardous or mixed waste to the Technical Area (TA) 50 Industrial Waste Treatment Facility (IWTF).

New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (HWMR-3), Section 302.A.4.a.(1) and the EPA publication "Application for a Hazardous Waste Permit", page 3-2, Item IV, require the regulated party to describe all the hazardous wastes that will be treated, stored, or disposed of at the facility. DOE's Part A is accurate when it states that the incinerator at TA-50 treats listed hazardous waste, because this facility will treat listed hazardous waste. DOE has in its letter dated November 13, 1986 attempted to further clarify that to date the incinerator has not discharged listed hazardous waste to the IWTF by certifying to that in Enclosure 2.

Furthermore, DOE's Part B adds additional clarification when it states: if the solution (i.e., flue-gas solution) contains hazardous constituents (this includes incineration of a listed waste), the solution is placed in the TA-54, Area L treatment tanks for evaporation. Therefore, the IWTF has not accepted hazardous or mixed waste by accepting scrubber solution blowdown from the incinerator. In addition, as stated in the Part B, if listed waste is burned (with the exception stated below) in the future or if the scrubber solution contains a characteristic waste in the future, then the solution will be treated at Area L.



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If, by your February 5, 1987 letter, you are concerned that DOE has burned methanol (listed as F003), we consider this to be acceptable in accordance with HWMR-3 Section 201.A.3.a.(2) (c). The exemption in this case applies because: (1) methanol is listed solely because it is ignitable, (2) methanol is mixed with a solid waste, and (3) the resultant mixture (i.e., the scrubber blowdown) no longer exhibits any characteristics of a hazardous waste. Treatment by incineration not only eliminates methanol as a characteristic waste but also excludes it from the definition of a hazardous waste as per the above referenced citations.

DOE, by this letter, has hopefully addressed your questions. If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact James Phoenix (667-5288) of my staff.

Sincerely,

  
Harold E. Valencia  
Area Manager

Enclosures

cc w/encls:  
A. Davis, US EPA, Dallas, Texas