



**Department of Energy**  
Albuquerque Operations Office  
P. O. Box 5400  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

JAN 10 1989

Mr. Michael Horan  
Taos Environmental Association  
P. O. Box 476  
Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico 87557

Dear Mr. Horan:

Please refer to your August 30, 1988 Freedom of Information Act request addressed to Mr. Harold Valencia and to your October 10, 1988 letter in which you provided clarification of your request concerning the "mined wastes incinerator and the page number for the General Accounting Office (GAO)" report.

No records responsive to your clarified request have been located. However, the following information is provided to you:

1. List of Radioactive Isotopes

The controlled air incinerator is designed for volume reduction and chemical stabilization of transuranic-contaminated combustible waste. Transuranic wastes contain radioactive isotopes of elements above uranium in the periodic chart, specifically Pu-238, Pu-239, Pu-240, Pu-241, and Am-241. In addition, very small amounts of tritium, C-14, P-32, and wastes containing low levels of mixed activation and fission products may also be incinerated on occasion.

2. Unmonitored Chemical Discharge Locations

All chemical discharge locations are monitored at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The discharges (outfalls) referred to in the GAO report are permitted by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. All outfalls are monitored for chemical constituents and other parameters as determined appropriate by EPA.

3. Radioactive Contaminated Groundwater

The GAO report refers to effluents containing radioactive materials released on-site. The effluent is released to a NPDES permitted outfall and is well within the DOE on-site derived concentration guides for controlled areas. This effluent has no industrial, municipal, or agricultural use and is completely contained within Laboratory boundaries. It is inappropriate to compare samples taken from this effluent to drinking water standards as established for finished water supplies. The regional aquifer that supplies drinking water to this region is more than 1000 ft. below this area and meets all drinking water standards.

EXHIBIT THREE



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Mr. Michael Horan

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Thank you for the clarification assistance you provided in your  
October 10, 1988 response.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David G. Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

David G. Jackson  
Senior Information Officer  
Office of Intergovernmental and  
External Affairs