



MARALYN BUDKE
Acting Secretary

CARLA L. MUTH
Deputy Secretary

MICHAEL J. BURKHART
Deputy Secretary

RICHARD MITZELFELT
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nancy Hunter, HED Office of the Secretary
FROM: C. Kelley Crossman, EID Hazardous Waste Program
DATE: May 16, 1989
SUBJECT: News Release, LANL

Please release the attached information to the media for immediate use. The public comment period on the Los Alamos National Laboratory draft permit for hazardous waste management has been formally opened by Legal Notice. This news release will increase the likelihood of public participation in the permitting process.

cc: Richard Mitzelfelt, EID Director
Kirkland Jones, EID Deputy Director
Jack Ellvinger, EID Hazardous Waste Bureau
Michael Brown, EID District II
Dan Balduini, EID Public Relations



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NEWS RELEASE

The Environmental Improvement Division of the Health and Environment Department announced the availability of a draft hazardous waste permit for the Los Alamos National Laboratory and has invited the public to review and comment on the draft. The permit details the requirements for storage and treatment of hazardous wastes from the laboratory operation. Under the state and federal hazardous waste regulations LANL must apply for and receive a permit for storage and treatment of regulated wastes. This draft was prepared in response to these regulations and covers waste analysis, inspections, employee training, closure of each unit and treatment practices and safeguards. The draft permit may be reviewed at either the EID Santa Fe office at 1190 St. Francis Dr. or the Espanola Public Library at 314A Ostate, NW.

LANL generates large quantities of waste solvents and chemicals which must be handled in accordance with strict guidelines. This draft permit specifies which chemicals may be stored while awaiting treatment, the treatment processes which LANL may conduct and the conditions under which certain chemicals may be incinerated. This permit does not authorize or address radioactive wastes contaminated with regulated chemicals. They will be subject to a permit to be processed later.

LANL first applied for a permit under the State Hazardous Waste Act in 1985. This draft is the result of numerous reviews and technical exchanges, carefully defining which activities will be allowed to continue. LANL decided to discontinue disposal of hazardous wastes on site and will close the landfills and lagoons which received hazardous wastes. The public

will be asked to comment on closure plans in the future as the EID processes them.

The permit will also require LANL to investigate all past disposal sites and to prepare cleanup plans where necessary. The State and EPA will oversee this activity and monitor cleanup of these old sites. This will be an on-going effort which is expected to take years to complete.

The EID will hold a public hearing on the draft permit in Santa Fe on June 13, 1989. The hearing will be to assess public concerns and to respond to questions. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:00 am in Apodaca Hall of the P.E.R.A. Building at Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail.

Questions and comments should be directed to the EID Hazardous Waste Section in Santa Fe. They can be reached at 827-2929 or 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87503. Comments must be received by July 7, 1989 to be considered.