



New Mexico Health and Environment Department

MARALYN BUDKE
Acting Secretary

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Deputy Secretary

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Deputy Secretary

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Director

MAY 19 1989

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Enclosed for your information is material on a hazardous waste facility in your area.

If you have any questions about this information feel free to call me at (505) 827-2923 or write to the address below.

Sincerely,



C. Kelley Crossman
Supervisor

CKC/vga

cc: Janie Hernandez, EPA, (6H-HS)



NEWS RELEASE

MAY 19 1989

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 Odate, 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.

FACT SHEET

MAY 19 1989

Intent to Issue a Permit for the Operation of Hazardous Waste Units Under the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act

Activities: Hazardous waste storage in containers and tanks; treatment in tanks; incineration of hazardous wastes.

Facility

Name: Los Alamos National Laboratory

EPA I.D.

Number: NM 0890010515

Location : Los Alamos, N.M.

Landowner: United States Department of Energy

Facility Operator: University of California Regents

Interim status

Activities: The laboratory conducts research in chemistry, physics and explosive technology. As a result of this activity a wide variety of chemical wastes are generated. These wastes are stored, treated and incinerated if applicable. Wastes not amenable to treatment on site are disposed of by shipment off site to a permitted facility.

**Description of
the permit:**

The permit describes the operation of each unit at the laboratory. Storage occurs in drums, large polyethylene transportable containers, and metal tanks. Any hazardous waste generated by the laboratory may be stored for an indefinite period of time. Treatment occurs in a controlled containment tank or large steel tanks. Treatment typically consists of neutralization of acids and corrosives, precipitation of metals and solidification of the sludges; and destruction of cyanide wastes. Incineration occurs in a controlled air incinerator and an industrial incinerator. The controlled air incinerator may burn any waste capable of destruction by burning, except for a few prohibited wastes, including chlorinated phenols. The industrial incinerator burns ignitable wastes contaminated with explosives. The permit includes a waste analysis plan, inspection plan, training plan, contingency plan, closure plans, operating procedures, an additional data submittal schedule and the regulations applicable for the permit period. If the permit is issued it will become the enforceable requirements under the state Hazardous Waste Act and the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act for conduct of hazardous waste management. The proposed permit is for a period of ten years as allowable by the regulations, with an automatic review required at five years.

Availability of the draft permit: A copy is available for public review at the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division, Hazardous Waste Section, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico and the Espanola public library, 314A Onate Street, NW, Espanola, New Mexico.

Comment Period: Any person, including the applicant, who wishes to comment on the tentative decision to issue the permit may do so by submitting written comments to the NMEID, Hazardous Waste Management Section, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503, ATTENTION: Mr. C. Kelley Crossman. Only comments received by July 7, 1989 will be considered.

Procedures for Requesting a Hearing: Any person, including the applicant, who wishes to request a public hearing concerning the proposed actions, may do so by submitting a written request to the address in the above section. Any request for a hearing shall be submitted in writing and shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. Each request must include the requestor's name and address. Only requests received by July 7, 1989, will be considered.

Scheduled Hearing: The Director of the Environmental Improvement Division, under the authority of the Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, has scheduled a hearing for June 13, 1989 at the P.E.R.A. Building, Old Santa Fe Trail at Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM. The hearing will be held in Apodaca Hall on the first floor and will begin at 9 AM. The Director has reserved the right to cancel the hearing if public interest in this proposed action does not appear significant. Comments and hearing requests received by June 9, 1989 will be used to judge public interest in this matter. Requests for a public hearing received after June 9, 1989 and by July 7, 1989, will be used to form a decision on holding a hearing at a future date.

Final Decision: All comments submitted on this proposed action will be considered in formulating a final decision. Under the Hazardous Waste Management Regulations the Director may either approve the permit as written, modify the permit based on the comments received, or deny the permit, either in whole or in part. If the permit is issued, it will become the operating conditions for hazardous waste management at LANL. If the permit is denied in whole or in part, the units for which a permit is denied will lose interim status and will be required to close under the Hazardous Waste Management Regulations for interim status units. The NMEID will notify LANL, and each person who submitted a written comment during the public comment period, of the final decision, or of any public hearing which may be scheduled.