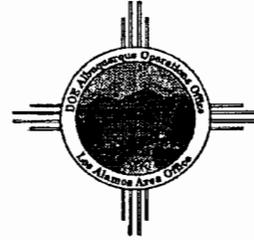


Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY



LANL/Environmental Management
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

DOE/Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

TA-50

Mr. Benito Garcia, Chief
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo St.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-2100

Dear Mr. Garcia:

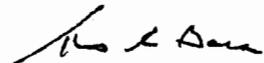
The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the University of California, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and the Department of Energy, Los Alamos Area Office (DOE/LAAO), have decided to close the Controlled Air Incinerator (CAI) located at Technical Area 50, Building 37, LANL, under Hazardous Waste Operating Permit No. NM 0890010515-1 issued by the New Mexico Environment Department on November 8, 1989. Neither LANL nor DOE/LAAO have any plans for future operation of the CAI for treatment of hazardous or mixed waste, and we do not intend to further pursue the permit modification for treatment of mixed waste that was discussed with your staff in May 1995.

As you are aware, the CAI has never been operated for treatment of waste under the permit, and we believe that the existing closure plan contained in the permit is not appropriate because it contemplated closure after extended operation of the CAI for waste treatment and would require complete demolition of all equipment and the building in which the CAI is located. It is our intent to submit a revised closure plan for the CAI before October 31, 1995, that will be based on sampling to demonstrate that the CAI is not contaminated by hazardous wastes. We will work with your staff on the approach and contents of the revised closure plan.

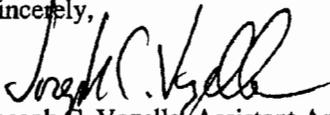
Enclosed with this letter is a request (hard copy and diskette) for Permit Modification for the Controlled Air Incinerator that would bring the configuration of the CAI up to date so that the review of the revised closure plan would be based on the current configuration. It is our understanding that you do not require payment of a permit fee for this permit modification. Again, it is not our intent to pursue further modifications of the permit to allow treatment of mixed waste.

If you should have any questions concerning this notification or permit modification request, please contact either Jack Ellvinger at 667-0633 or H.L. Jody Plum at 665-5042.

Sincerely,


Thomas E. Baca, Director
Environmental Management Program

Sincerely,


Joseph C. Vozella, Assistant Area Manager
Department of Energy/Los Alamos Area Office

Enclosure: a/s

Cy: B. Hoditschek, Permit Program Manager
NMED Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau

72



8751