

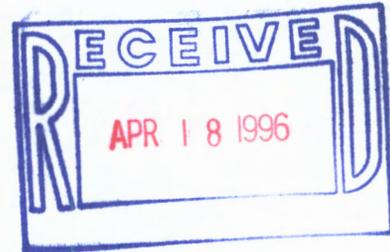


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**Department of Energy**  
Albuquerque Operations Office  
Los Alamos Area Office  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

APR 16 1996



Mr. Ronald Kern  
Technical Program  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials  
Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2044 Galisteo Street, Building A  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Kern:

Subject: Closure Plan, Technical Area (TA)-50-37, Controlled Air Incinerator (CAI)  
Sampling Strategy

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the meeting held between you and representatives of the Los Alamos National Laboratory. That meeting centered on the closure plan being proposed for the CAI.

We provided a short history of the incinerator. We discussed the dual permitting of the incinerator for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) by the Environmental Protection Agency and for hazardous waste by the State of New Mexico. We discussed the trial burn which incinerated a surrogate waste made up of carbon tetrachloride (an extremely hard chemical to destroy). We explained the incinerator was able to destroy both PCBs and the carbon tetrachloride to the six "9" level. We also discussed the history of waste treatment in the incinerator. We told you the only run in which hazardous waste was treated in the unit contained "characteristic ignitable waste." We indicated that based on the efficiency of the unit, we did not expect to find any constituents in the incinerator components. We also pointed out that due to the efficient and effective gas cleanup train, the radioactive effluent in the stack gas was expected to be minimal.

We discussed the closure plan in some detail. We explained that we felt that based on the waste treated in the unit, the approach undertaken in the closure plan was extremely conservative. We will be taking the samples at the time of the dismantlement of the unit. We wish to keep the closure plan flexible enough to allow us to review the findings of the sampling and make a determination based on analytical results as to whether the components of the unit should be cleaned for a "clean closure" or treated as a hazardous/mixed waste and properly disposed.



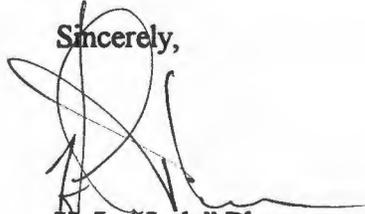
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*At the conclusion of the meeting you concurred with our approach and agreed that no further modification of the closure plan was necessary to get it public-noticed.*

At this point, I would like to express our gratitude for your willingness to meet and discuss this extremely important issue on short notice. If you should have any questions concerning this issue or letter, please feel free to contact me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,



H. L. "Jody" Plum  
Office of Environment  
and Projects

LAAMEP:2JP-036

cc:

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