

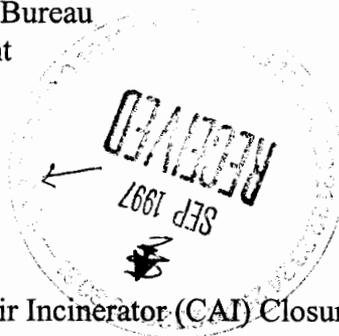


**Department of Energy**  
 Albuquerque Operations Office  
 Los Alamos Area Office  
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

AUG 28 1997

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Stuart Dinwiddie  
 Program Manager, Permitting  
 Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau  
 New Mexico Environment Department  
 2044 Galisteo Street, Building A  
 P. O. Box 26110  
 Santa Fe, NM 87505



Dear Mr. Dinwiddie:

Subject: Update on the Controlled Air Incinerator (CAI) Closure Activities

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update of the CAI closure activities. This was discussed at our August monthly meeting.

The final shipment of metal equipment to Scientific Ecology Group (SEG) for melting and recycling was completed at the end of July 1997. We are now awaiting a certificate of destruction or some similar document to complete our documentation for the final report and certification.

Earlier this year, we discussed with you the need to go to SEG for the recycling of the metal components of the incinerator. At that time, we presented swipe data and data from subsequent decontamination washes. We pointed out that we were not able to reduce the levels of metals to that demanded in the closure plan. We proposed that the metal components of the incinerator be sent for recycling at SEG. This would be a more conservative approach than that proposed in the closure plan. It would tie up any remaining amounts of hazardous constituents (metals) that remained on the components in the newly formed recycled steel products. We both agreed to this.

After these discussions, we proceeded to establish contact with SEG and negotiate a contract. Initially, several of the components were going to be left behind so they could be employed in the RAMROD operation. This was discussed with you and we agreed that it was an appropriate use of the existing equipment. Subsequently some of this equipment was determined not to fulfill the needs of the project and, therefore, would have to be recycled at SEG as the rest of the metal was. This required additional interaction with SEG and arrangements for the shipment of the additional components. The last shipment of metal components was sent out at the end of July 1997. We do not anticipate the need to ship any further components.

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Currently, we are reviewing the final draft of the closure report. It will become final when we receive the documentation from SEG that the metal components have been received and are scheduled for melting.

We hope to provide the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) with the closure certification and closure report by September 1, 1997. We will keep NMED apprised of any changes in that schedule. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please feel free to contact me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H.L. Plum', written over a circular stamp or mark.

H.L. "Jody" Plum

Office of Environment and Projects

LAAMEP:3JP-056

cc:

Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2044 Galisteo Street, Building A  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87505