



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



MAR 31 1998

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Robert S. Dinwiddie, Ph.D.
 Program Manager
 RCRA Permits Management Program
 Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2044 Galisteo St., Building A
 P. O. Box 26110
 Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Dr. Dinwiddie:

Subject: Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), TA-50-37 RAMROD, Withdrawal of February 1998 Request for Permit Modification

The purpose of this letter is to confirm our discussion March 16, 1998 concerning proposed TA-50-37 RAMROD operations and the letter sent by LANL in February 1998. In this discussion and letter we expressed our concern regarding imminent startup of the RAMROD and the outstanding permit application.

Our February 1998 letter discussed the proposed operations of the gloveboxes within the RAMROD. We brought to your attention that we would be emptying existing drums of TRU waste in the gloveboxes and sorting through their contents as well as conducting other waste characterization activities. Sorted material would be placed into containers attached to the glovebox. When full, they would be appropriately labeled and sealed. As this operation involves radiological sources, container change-out is time intensive and, as discussed, more effectively done for full containers. In order to reduce the exposure to personnel conducting the sorting and characterization activities, we wish to leave the containers attached to the gloveboxes during the weekdays. This would mean overnight in most cases, but in any case not over a weekend or holiday.

In our discussions you determined that since this is WIPP TRU waste, it would be considered newly generated once the drums were opened and emptied. You further commented that this waste stream would be subject to <90 day storage area requirements for the containers attached to the gloveboxes and other activities associated with the characterization of the WIPP bound waste at the RAMROD facility.

With the use of the <90 day storage area(s) being acceptable for this operation, we would like to withdraw our permit modification for the RAMROD. We will then include, as

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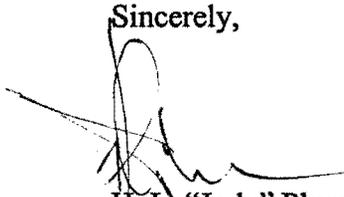
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agreed, these storage areas in the permit renewal package for TA-50 (expected to be delivered to the New Mexico Environment Department by the end of July 1998).

Through permitting of all TA-50-37-112, the operation will become more flexible and allow for longer periods of storage which will cover weekends and holidays. It will also allow for more efficient and safer operations for those employed in the activities at RAMROD.

If you should have any questions concerning this letter, please feel free to contact me at (505) 665-5042 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. L. Plum', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

H. L. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment

LAAME:6JP-055