



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



MAR 10 1999

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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

Dear Dr. Dinwiddie:

Subject: Response to the January 19, 1999 Letter from the Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau "RE: Notice of Determination, Withdrawal Request for Technical Area (TA) 50 Storage Units"

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the above captioned letter which addresses the issue of removing a number of waste management sites from the permit that were never built. The permit was requested with the full intent of building these sites. With the Department of Energy's changing mission at Los Alamos, shrinkage of budgets, and the introduction of new waste minimization programs, these proposed sites are no longer required.

Your initial response to our request to remove these sites from the permit was to file for a Class III permit modification. Subsequent discussions have defined an approach to file and implement a closure plan that identifies that these sites do not exist. We will have an independent engineer certify this. You in turn will have the New Mexico Environment Department staff verify that the sites do not exist at LANL. Once those steps are completed, you will remove the sites from the permit as part of the close out for the closure activities.

We are in the process of taking the old closure plans from the permit and amending them to reflect the above discussion. We will submit them for your approval. Once approved, we will request partial closure of the facility to implement these closure plans. These plans will be submitted in the March - April 1999 time frame.

If you have any questions concerning this issue, please contact me at (505) 665-5042 or Jack Ellvinger at (505) 667-0633.

Sincerely,

H.L. "Body" Plum
 Office of Environment

LAAME:6JP-122



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