



Department of Energy

Field Office, Albuquerque
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Barbara
Resnik

JAN 14 1994

Ms. Kathleen Sisneros
Waste Management Division
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Ms. Sisneros:

The purpose of this letter is to officially respond to the Notice of Deficiency comments provided by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for its review of the Interim Status Closure Plan for Surface Impoundments TA-53-166 NE and TA-53-166 NW, Technical Area 53. The NMED comments for this document were submitted to the Department of Energy, Los Alamos Area Office (DOE/LAAO), on September 30, 1993. The NMED transmittal originally provided for 30 days for response. The DOE/LAAO requested an extension to prepare comments addressing the State's concerns. The extension was granted by NMED, and this transmittal meets the January 14, 1994, date which was set by NMED for submission of response comments by DOE/LAAO.

A response to each concern is provided in the enclosed comment response document. The detail of the response comments is intended to address individual as well as general concerns expressed by NMED. In particular, general concerns which relate to knowledge of source generation for the waste streams which entered the ponds and the feasibility of analyzing for Appendix VIII constituents in the sludge, water, and surrounding soils associated with impoundments, have been researched according to the NMED's suggestions.

Clean closure of the TA-53-166 NE and TA-53-166 NW Surface Impoundments has been proposed in both the original Closure Plan and in the enclosed comment response. The DOE/LAAO suggests a meeting with NMED to discuss of these reponse comments after your initial review and preceding our incorporation of them into an Amended Closure Plan. Please call Paul Treat of my staff at 667-5808 if you would like to arrange this meeting.

Sincerely,

Theodore Taylor

Theodore Taylor
Program Manager
Environmental Restoration Program
Los Alamos Area Office
Department of Energy



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Enclosure

cc w/enclosure
P. Treat, ES&H, LAAO

cc wo/enclosure
T. Taylor, ES&H, LAAO
K. Schenck, ES&H, LAAO/Scientech
R. Vocke, EM-13, MS M992
D. Sankey, FIN-18, UC-LANL, MS A107
RPF, MS M707