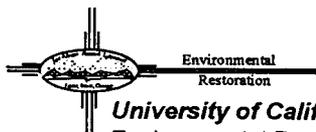


Los Alamos National Laboratory

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

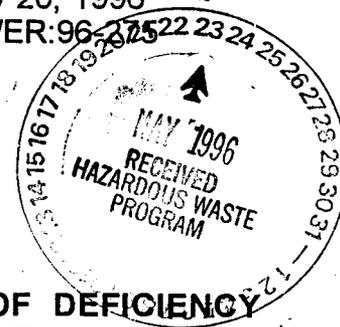


University of California
Environmental Restoration, MS M992
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
505-667-0808/FAX 505-665-4747



U. S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office, MS A316
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
505-665-7203
FAX 505-665-4504

Date: May 20, 1996
Refer to: EM/ER-96-075



Mr. Benito Garcia
NMED-HRMB
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

**SUBJECT: EXTENSION REQUEST FOR THE NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY
(NOD) RESPONSE FOR TECHNICAL AREA (TA) 53**

Dear Mr. Garcia:

The Los Alamos National Laboratory's Environmental Restoration Project requests an extension of the deadline for the NOD response for the TA-53 Surface Impoundments Closure Plan. The Laboratory requests a delay in responding to the NOD until the land use/exposure scenario issues are resolved between the Laboratory, the Department of Energy (DOE), and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). The land use/exposure scenario issues are critical to the closure plan preparation. This delay was discussed in the Lagoons Technical Progress meeting on May 8, 1996 (Laboratory, DOE, and NMED) and agreed to by Stephanie Kruse of your staff because NMED wishes to have one single closure plan which incorporates all NOD responses. The delay is requested to extend for 20 working days after the land use/exposure scenario issues are resolved.

The 20-day delay is necessary in case changes are needed to the sampling plan, which would necessitate extensive revisions to the closure plan, and to accommodate the various review cycles necessary.

Please ask your office to contact Gene Gould at (505) 667-2988 or Everett Trollinger at (505) 667-5794, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jorg Jansen, Program Manager
Environmental Restoration

Sincerely,

Theodore J. Taylor, Program Manager
Los Alamos Area Office

JJ/TT/bp



4321

Tk