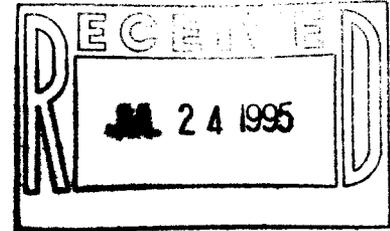




TA 54

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

JUL 18 1995



CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Barbara Hoditschek, Program Manager
RCRA Permits
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
525 Camino de los Marquez, P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Ms. Hoditschek:

Subject: Sort, Survey, and Decontamination (SSD) Project Start Notice

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your request of July 7, 1995, to provide information on the SSD Project being conducted at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Technical Area (TA) 54, Area L. The letter also serves as a reference to file for the project start notification that was performed by telephone at that time.

The purpose of the SSD is to survey a large proportion of the existing mixed waste inventory to determine the presence of radionuclide contamination. Any waste determined not to have such contamination can be recharacterized as hazardous. These wastes had previously been classified as mixed waste due to conservative procedures in place at radioactive materials management areas at a time before survey procedures were in place that could verify radioactive contamination. The SSD involves activities associated only with sampling and managing the radioactive component of mixed waste containers currently stored at TA-54, Areas G and L.

Approximately 1,400 drums of suspect mixed waste will be opened, sampled, and surveyed to determine whether the waste is radioactively contaminated. Minor contamination, such as small amounts of surface contamination on containers, may be removed. If the waste is not radioactively contaminated, the fact will be documented and the waste released for treatment and/or disposal at commercial hazardous waste management facilities. Wastes that are found to be radioactively contaminated will remain in the mixed waste inventory. The project has been previously described in the draft Proposed Site Treatment Plan for Mixed Waste dated March 24, 1995, presented to the New Mexico Environment Department March 28, 1995.



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JUL 18 1995

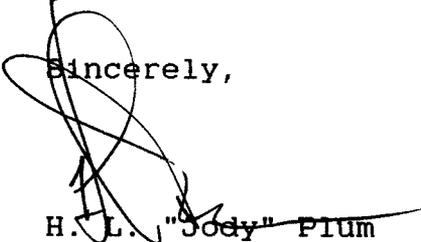
Barbara Hoditschek

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The project started July 10, 1995. The drum opening and sampling activities are taking place on the Waste Transport Pad, Unit #54-58 at Area L as depicted in Figure 6 of the 1989 Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. The pad is used to provide containment and weather protection as it includes a concrete sump with curbs, an overhead canopy, and is coated with chemically resistant paint. Typically, four to six drums will be managed on the transport pad during a work shift. Sampling activities involve a first phase of taking liquid samples for radioactivity screening off-site and a second phase involving sampling of solid waste types with methods to be determined by media type. The entire project is anticipated to last ten to twelve months.

As discussed, a final report on the project will be submitted to your office. If you have any further questions, please call me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,



H. L. "Jody" Plim

Office of Environment and Projects

LAAMEP:7HJP-001

cc:

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MS-K490

S. French, ESH-19/BEC, LANL,
MS-J593

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