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CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 27, 2000

Dr. John Browne, Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A100
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Mr. Theodore Taylor, Project Manager
Los Alamos Area Office
Department of Energy
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

RE: STATUS OF THE RFI REPORT FOR MDAs G, H AND L AT TA 54
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
NM 0890010515
HWB-LANL-00-005

Dear Dr. Browne and Mr. Taylor:

The New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB) received the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Report for Material Disposal Areas (MDAs) G, H and L at Technical Area (TA) 54 submitted by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to HWB in March 2000 (referenced by ER19990003 and LA-UR-00-1140). The MDA High Performing Team (HPT) was formed in January 2000 to work on the TA 54 RFI Report and develop a MDA core document that would streamline remediation for a group of MDAs. The HPT consists of staff from HWB, LANL and the Department of Energy (DOE). The MDA core document evolved into the Draft Mesa-Top MDA Implementation Plan which LANL submitted with a cover letter dated August 31, 2000 (referenced by ER2000-0469). Due to a change in direction from senior management, the HPT has agreed that it will not review the MDA Implementation Plan at this time. The Implementation Plan is outside the current, more focused scope of the MDA HPT.

In September 2000, the HPT received direction from senior management to expedite the implementation of a preferred remedy at one MDA. The HPT has selected MDA H and narrowed the scope of its effort to accommodate the change. The HPT has agreed that HWB will not continue its review of the RFI Report for MDAs G, H and L at TA 54. The reporting of the RFI for MDA H will be separated from the RFI for MDAs G and L in order to expedite the implementation of a preferred remedy at MDA H. LANL will submit a revised RFI report that

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addresses only MDA H and any comments and concerns raised to date by HWB. HWB anticipates the submittal of the RFI Report for MDA H around March 30, 2000, while the RFI Report for MDAs G and L will be submitted at a later date.

Currently, only eight of the nine shafts at MDA H are on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) module of the permit; however, all nine disposal shafts will be addressed under corrective action as per 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR 264.101). The HPT has agreed to conduct a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) at MDA H. A CMS is needed because contaminants at the site may present a threat to human health and the environment over the lifetime of the waste. This letter is notification to LANL and DOE to submit the CMS Plan. The CMS Plan for MDA H shall be submitted to HWB within 90 days of this notification.

We look forward to continuing a dialogue with LANL and DOE to expedite a remedy at MDA H. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Neelam Dhawan at (505) 827-1558 extension 1018 or Eliza Frank at extension 1048.

Sincerely,



~~for~~ John Young
LANL Corrective Action Project Leader
Permits Management Program

JRY:eaf

cc: P. Allen, NMED HWB
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File: Reading, G/M/S '00 and HSWA LANL 5/1148/54/MDA H