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National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Operations, MS A316
Environmental Restoration Program
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
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Date: January 23, 2004
Refer to: ER2004-0011

Ms. Sandra Martin, Acting Chief
Permits Management Program
NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East
Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303



SUBJECT: DISAPPROVAL OF THE INVESTIGATION WORK PLAN FOR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA G (MDA G) LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL) EPA ID# NM0890010515

Dear Ms Martin:

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the University of California (UC) have reviewed your letter dated December 11, 2003, disapproving the Investigation Work Plan for Material Disposal Area G (MDA G). NMED states their concern that the Investigation Work Plan may change as a result of the nuclear safety review and Authorization Basis (AB) process and is requesting the AB process be completed prior to submittal of the work plan. We are disappointed with NMED's decision not to review this document until completion of the safety review as it puts our work schedule at risk.

Evidently there is some misunderstanding on how the AB process is used to support operations including environmental restoration activities at LANL and perhaps we've created a false impression that the scope identified in the workplan could change through the AB process. In general the primary purpose of the AB process is safety to the public, as well as worker safety and is a major component of DOE's commitment to ensure safe work environments at LANL. The AB processes will not change the scope identified in the workplan for determining nature and extent of contamination. In fact, the AB documentation utilizes the scope identified in the work plan as the bounding conditions. However, if changes are made to the work plan subsequent to AB safety documentation, additional AB effort will be required before fieldwork can begin, resulting in loss of valuable time.

We propose a meeting to discuss and answer questions pertaining to the safety authorization basis. We will contact you to arrange time and location. If you have any questions, please contact Woody Woodworth at (505) 665-5820 or John Hopkins at (505) 667-9551.



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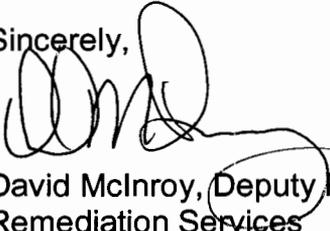
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Ms. Sandra Martin
ER2004-0011

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January 23, 2004

Sincerely,



David McInroy, Deputy Project Director
Remediation Services
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



David Gregory, Federal Project Director
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Site Operations

DM/DG/JH/jr

Cy:(w/o enclosure)

J. Hopkins, RRES-ECR, MS M992

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N. Quintana, RRES-RS, MS M992

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RRES-RS File, MS M992

IM-5, MS A150

RPF MS M707