



TA 54
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
 National Nuclear Security Administration
 Los Alamos Site Office
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
 3/31/2005



CERTIFIED MAIL -RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. John Kieling
 Permits Management Program
 Hazardous Waste Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303



Dear Mr. Kieling:

Re: Closure Strategy for Technical Area 54, Area L Landfill, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), EPA ID# NM0890010515

The purpose of this letter is to propose closure of the Area L Landfill at LANL Technical Area (TA) 54, by the Department of Energy (DOE) and University of California (UC), under alternative closure requirements allowed by the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC). DOE/UC also propose closure of the Area L operating storage units that overlie Material Disposal Area (MDA) L in conjunction with the corrective measure activities for MDA L. This proposal will result in a single, comprehensive process that satisfies the requirements of both 20.4.1.500 NMAC and the Order on Consent.

MDA L consists of all the inactive subsurface disposal units at TA-54, Area L including a pit, three impoundments, and 34 disposal shafts. The Area L Landfill is part of this MDA and includes 22 of the 34 disposal shafts and two of the three impoundments. The Area L Landfill units meet the definition of regulated unit under 20.4.1.500 NMAC.

If the proposed strategy were implemented, MDA L and Area L Landfill would both follow the Corrective Measure process of the Order on Consent, including Corrective Measure Evaluation (CME), Corrective Measure Implementation (CMI), and public comment and hearings as appropriate, with NMED making the selection of final remedy. The strategy will not impact the schedule of the CME for MDA-L in any way, and is being proposed solely for the purpose of efficiency. A similar approach is being implemented at MDA H.

The active hazardous and mixed waste storage units within the two "domes" at TA 54, Area L, require closure before a remedy can be implemented at either MDA L or the Area L Landfill. Closure of all these sites will require collaborative efforts from NMED, DOE and the Laboratory.



DOE and UC request NMED concurrence on the proposed strategy in order to begin planning for the CME for MDA L. We would be happy to meet with your staff to discuss the proposed strategy in more detail.

If you should have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please contact Gene Turner, DOE, at 667-5794; John Hopkins, UC, at 667-9551; or Gian Bacigalupa, UC, at 667-1579.

Sincerely,



John C. Ordaz, P.E.
Assistant Manager
Office of Environmental Stewardship

ES: 2JO-003

cc:

Laurie King, Chief (6PD-N)
New Mexico/Federal Facilities Section
Environmental Protection Agency – Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

James P. Bearzi, Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

G. Turner, ES, LASO
D. Gregory, ES, LASO
L. Woodworth, ES, LASO
R. Corman, OC, LASO
K. Hargis, ENV-DO, LANL, MS-J591
T. Stanford, NWIS-DO, LANL, MS-K492
D. McInroy, ENV-RS, LANL, MS-M992
E. Louderbough, LANL, LC-GL, MS-A187
J. Hopkins, , ENV-ECR, LANL MS-M992
C. English, ENV-ECR, LANL, MS-M992
R. Lechel, NWIS-NA, LANL, MS-J593
J. Ellvinger, ENV-SWRC, LANL, MS-K490
G. Bacigalupa, ENV-SWRC, LANL, MS-K490