



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



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JUL 11 1997

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
 Hazardous and Radioactive Materials
 Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A
 P. O. Box 26110
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



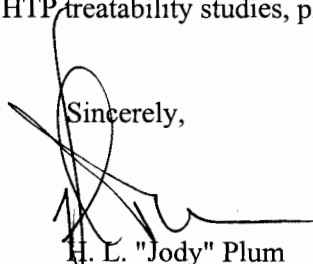
Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Treatability Study Notification

The purpose of this letter is to provide updated information on the intent to conduct nine previously proposed mixed waste treatability studies at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). On July 24, 1996, LANL submitted the original notification of intent for the Advanced Technology Group (NMT-6) to conduct these nine studies at the TA-55 Plutonium Facility. These studies proposed using a high temperature, high pressure aqueous oxidation method known as Hydrothermal Processing (HTP) to destroy hazardous organic constituents and facilitate recovery of radionuclides present in mixed waste. LANL included these studies in a document entitled "Proposed Treatability Studies for 1997," submitted on March 13, 1997 to satisfy reporting requirements specified in Title 20 of the New Mexico Administrative Code, Chapter 4, Part 1 (20 NMAC 4.1), which incorporates Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 261.4(f)(9). As stated in the above-referenced document, notification of these treatability studies was submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department, Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau in calendar year 1996, but the studies have not been conducted. These HTP treatability studies were postponed due to funding issues and are now scheduled to start in October 1997. LANL will send you a letter once a definitive date has been set to conduct these studies.

If you have any questions regarding the HTP treatability studies, please contact me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,



H. L. "Jody" Plum
 Office of Environment and Projects

LAAMEP:9JP-062

cc:
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Mr. Benito Garcia

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cc:

Robert S. (Stu) Dinwiddie, Ph.D.
Manager, RCRA Permits Management Program
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