

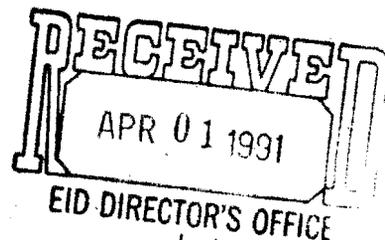


LANL recd 1991
04/17/91
Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Carly Elizabeth



MAR 27 1991



*field unit 1
00-1114*

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Allyn Davis
Director, Hazardous Waste Management Division
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Davis:

During the excavation of a new disposal cell at the Los Alamos County Landfill, a previously unidentified septic tank was unearthed. This septic tank is located at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Technical Area 61. It is believed to have received sanitary waste from an isolated building used for washing vehicles. It is constructed of concrete and is estimated to have a 1,000 gallon capacity. The period of time during which this unit was in operation is unknown. The Department of Energy (DOE) has reviewed LANL's Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) report, talked to members of the Environmental Restoration Program Office (HSE-13), as well as members of the Environmental Protection Group (HSE-8), and performed a site visit. After completion of the above sequence of activities, DOE concurs that this septic tank and its ancillary equipment was, in fact, a new SWMU. As required by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendment provisions of our Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit, we are submitting to your office our 15 day written notification of this discovery.

Members of the Waste Site Studies Section of HSE-8 have started characterization of this new unit and the surrounding area. Samples taken from the contents remaining in the tank indicated no hazardous constituents. There was, however, 30 picocuries per liter of beta activity detected in the samples. This radioactive material will be handled in conformance with DOE regulations. Further characterization of this unit is scheduled for later this month.

We believe that the levels of contaminants found in relation to this SWMU pose no threat to human health or the environment. This new unit will be removed as a voluntary corrective action so that completion of the disposal cell at the landfill may continue. Following the removal of this unit, appropriate documentation will be sent to your office.



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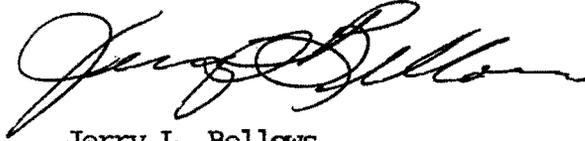
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Mr. Allyn Davis

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Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Anell Danczyk of my staff. She can be reached at FTS 855-5050.

Sincerely,



Jerry L. Bellows
Area Manager

LESH:2PS-015

CC:

A. Tiedman, ADO, LANL, MS-A120
T. Gunderson, HSE-DO, LANL, MS-K491
K. Hargis, HSE-8, LANL, MS-K490
R. Vocke, HSE-DO, LANL, MS-K481
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R. Mitzelfelt, Director, EID, Santa Fe, NM' 87503
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