



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

AUG - 9 1995

Ron K ✓
Barbara ✓
C. J. Cole -
Teri ✓
Susan ✓
Stu -

Mr. Louis A. Geoffrion
 3125 Nickel St.
 Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Mr. Geoffrion:

Thank you for your letter dated June 20, 1995, which expresses concern regarding an incident that may have resulted in disposal of Plutonium-239 in the Airport Landfill. The Airport Landfill is currently undergoing a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facilities Investigation (RFI) by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Environmental Restoration (ER) Program. The requirement for this investigation is mandated in Hazardous Waste Permit NM080010515 (HSWA Permit) which was issued to LANL and the Department of Energy (DOE) by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, RCRA Permits Branch. Under this program, the Airport Landfill carries the designation of Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 73-001(a). As specified in the permit, the RFI must address known or suspected releases from SWMUs by evaluating the nature, rate of migration and extent of any contamination related to SWMU 73-001(a) as well as all other SWMUs listed in the permit.

The HSWA Permit also requires that LANL develop RFI Work Plans outlining ER activities. The investigation planned for SWMU 73-001(a) is discussed in the OU-1071 Work Plan which is available in the LANL Reading Room located at 1450 Central Ave., Suite 101, Los Alamos, New Mexico. Parts of this investigation have been initiated and some results have been obtained. Activities to date include the drilling of 11 holes around the perimeter of the landfill, some of which have been completed for the purposes of evaluating the presence of contamination in leachate and gas associated with the landfill. Currently, no results have been obtained which indicate that contaminants have migrated beyond the immediate SWMU boundaries. The next phase of activities includes the installation of devices to evaluate contamination directly within the unit. This and other phases of investigation will continue into Fiscal Years (FY) 1996 and 1997, but depending upon field results and DOE budgets, activities may continue beyond this current projection. The results of drilling and leachate sampling performed through FY 1997 are scheduled to be submitted to EPA in an RFI Report in November of 1997. This report will also be available in the LANL reading room after EPA has completed their review.



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Mr. Louis A. Geoffrion

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Mr. Corey Cruz, the individual to whom your letter was addressed, will also be responding to your concerns. If you have any questions regarding LANL ER activities for the Airport Landfill, please call Ted Taylor of my staff at (505) 665-7203, or Bonnie Koch, also of my staff, at (505) 665-7202.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Vozella
Assistant Area Manager
Office of Environment
and Projects

LAAMEP:2BK-012

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

E. Merrill, EM-453, HQ
T. Taylor, AAMEP, LAAO
C. Fesmire, AAMEP, LAAO
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cc w/o enclosure:

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