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**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

December 8, 1999

Mr. Theodore Taylor, Project Manager
Los Alamos Area Office
Department of Energy
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Dr. John Browne, Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P. O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A100
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

**RE: Approval to Proceed
73-001 (a,b,c,d) and 73-004 (d) RFI Report
(Airport Landfill Areas)
Los Alamos National Laboratory
NM0890010515**

Dear Mr. Taylor and Mr. Browne:

The RCRA Permits Management Program (RPMP) of the New Mexico Environment Department's Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) is in the process of review and comment on the 73-001 (a,b,c,d) and 73-004 (d) RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Report for the Airport Landfill Areas (LA-UR-98-3824) dated November 30, 1998 and referenced by EM/ER:98-455.

On November 16, 1999, HRMB (Victoria Maranville), NMED Department of Energy (DOE) Oversight Bureau (Darlene Goering), and LANL representatives (Terry Rust, Val Rhodes, and Steve Calhoun), met to discuss HRMB review comments and concerns related to the Airport Landfill RFI Report. Based on this discussion, HRMB agrees with the "proposed presumptive remedy approach" outlined in the Airport Landfill RFI Report as an appropriate path forward to proceed with additional work at the site.

Currently, HRMB is in the process of generating comments on the Landfill RFI Report. The comments will be submitted to LANL in the form of a Request for Supplemental Information (RSI); however, LANL will



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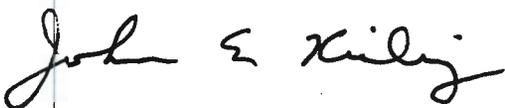
not need to respond to the RSI in the form of a response to RSI, rather comments can be incorporated into the Sampling and Analyses Plan (SAP). HRMB believes that all supplemental information required will be able to be addressed by LANL and incorporated in the SAP which will be prepared for the airport landfill.

Any comments that cannot be incorporated into the SAP may be transmitted to HRMB under separate cover. HRMB does not want LANL to re-submit the Airport Landfill RFI Report, rather proceed with additional work for the Airport Landfill and incorporate HRMB comments, concerns, and data gaps into the appropriate document.

HRMB and LANL representatives (Terry Rust and Val Rhodes) have been working closely throughout the review of the Airport Landfill RFI Report. HRMB recognizes the efforts put forth on both sides and wishes to continue this joint effort. HRMB will allow LANL to proceed with the investigation and filling of data gaps prior to the submittal of formal HRMB comments on the RFI Report to LANL in an attempt to facilitate work at the Airport Landfill site. As a part of this approval, HRMB is requesting that we be involved in the development of the SAP. This collaborative approach should expedite the approval and implementation process for the SAP, as well as ensure HRMB's concerns are covered in the final SAP submitted to HRMB.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (505) 827-1558 extension 1012 or Vickie Maranville at (505) 827-1558 extension 1044.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Program Manager
RCRA Permits Management Program

cc: J. Bearzi, NMED HRMB
V. Maranville, NMED HRMB
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M. Kirsch, LANL EM/ER, MS M992
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J. Vozella, DOE LAAO, MS A316
File: Reading and HSWA LANL 1/1071/73/73-001 (a,b,c,d) and 73-004 (d)