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U.S. Department of Energy
 Los Alamos Area Office, MS A316
 Environmental Restoration Program
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Date: October 16, 2000
 Refer to: ER2000-0582



Mr. John Young, Corrective Action Project Leader
 Permits Management Program
 NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau
 2044 A Galisteo
 Santa Fe, NM 87502

**SUBJECT: RECENT MODIFICATION TO THE REGULATORY APPROACH FOR
 THE POTENTIAL RELEASE SITES (PRSS)
 73-001(a-d) AND 73-004(d), THE AIRPORT LANDFILL AREAS**

Dear Mr. Young:

The purpose of this letter is to document the recent modification to the regulatory approach for PRSS 73-001(a-d) and 73-004(d), the Airport Landfill Areas. Progress on these PRSSs is currently being directed by the Airport Landfill High Performing Team (HPT), which consists of members from the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Environmental Restoration (ER) Project, the Department of Energy Los Alamos Area Office (DOE LAAO), and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB) and DOE Oversight Bureau.

In March 2000, the Airport Landfill HPT agreed that the initial approach would utilize a phased Voluntary Corrective Measure (VCM) approach; the first phase addressed cleanup of the landfill drainages and the second phase involved completing the investigation of the landfill and designing and constructing a cover system. The planning activities were to be presented in a phased VCM Plan while reporting activities would be summarized in one VCM Report.

The proposed modification to the regulatory approach, agreed to by the Airport Landfill HPT on October 10, 2000, involves utilizing an Interim Measure to complete the cleanup of the drainages associated with landfill activities. This modification will allow the drainage cleanup to proceed in an accelerated manner, avoid potential threatened and endangered (T&E) species issues in Pueblo Canyon, and occur in parallel with activities associated with VCM planning, scheduling, and contracting. As part of this Interim Measure, a formal plan and report will be submitted to NMED HWB. Completing the investigation of the landfill and designing and constructing a cover system will still be completed as a VCM. A formal VCM plan and report will be submitted to NMED HWB; the VCM report will also summarize IM drainage activities in order for a recommendation of no further action to be requested. Although this modification allows accelerated cleanup of the drainages, it does not affect other planned activities or the ultimate goal of the project.

HSWA LANL 1/1071/73 73-001(a-d), 73-004(d)

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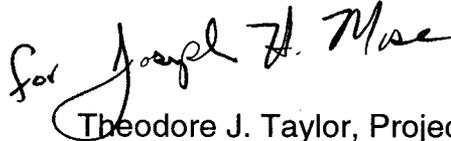
If you have any questions or concerns regarding the modification outlined above, please contact Dave McInroy at (505) 667-0819 or Joe Mose at (505) 667-5808.

Sincerely,



Julie A. Canepa, Program Manager
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Environmental Restoration

Sincerely,



Theodore J. Taylor, Project Manager
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office

JC/TT/VR/vn

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