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TA-73 AIRPORT LANDFILL Drainage

1/1/03

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Department of Energy
Office of Los Alamos Site Operations
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Office of Project Management
And
Environmental Restoration
Office: (505) 667-9875 FAX: (505) 667-9998

Date: Jan 1 2003

Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet 3

TO: Victoria Mananville

Phone Number: 428-2500

FAX Number: 428-2567

FROM: DAVID R. GREGORY

Phone Number: 667-5808

FAX Number: (505) 667-9998

MESSAGE: Urgent For Your Review Reply ASAP Please Comment

Vickie:

I'll call you Monday to discuss



4879



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

State of New Mexico
Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
Attn: Ms. Victoria Maranville
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Dear Ms. Maranville:

Subject: Extension Request for Submittal of Addendum to the Interim Measure Plan for PRS TA 73-001(a)

On December 30, 2002 the DOE requested an extension for the submittal of the addendum to the Interim Measures Plan for TA 73-001(a). The purpose of this letter is to elaborate on the basis for the extension request. DOE has an uncompromising commitment to safety. In the final review of the IM Plan selected by the integrated project team, management at both DOE as well as LANL suggested a re-evaluation of removal methods to determine if another cost effective technology is available that would provide a greater margin of safety. Although use of helicopter for lifting material from steep sideslopes is routine in certain situations, there is a sense that the value gained and risk reduction benefits to the public do not warrant the risks associated with using a helicopter to remove legacy debris.

At a meeting held in the NMED, Hazardous Waste Bureau Office on April 15, 2002, the DOE informed HWB team members of DOE's decision to pursue a removal method that could offer a greater margin of safety. Around the May 2002 time frame, RRES-R (formerly LANL-ER) began working to develop a cost estimate for an alternative method. Concurrently, DOE requested a cost estimate from the Army Corps of Engineers (DoD). Our intent was to use the government estimate as a benchmark to compare against the RRES-R cost estimate. The government cost estimate for a non-helicopter removal was substantially lower than the estimate shown in the ER Program Baseline and in August 2002, a decision was made to use the DoD to execute this project. When the IM Plan was submitted in August 2002, the DoD was in the process of procuring a subcontract for execution of this work.

The key components of the IM Plan are:

1. Identification of clean up criteria,
2. Removal of debris from the four drainages described,

3. Assess the site by analyzing soil, sediment and if possible, runoff from the site and,
4. Reporting on the results and providing recommendations for remediation or no further action.

The IM Plan was submitted to NMED without final selection of methods or technologies for accomplishing item 2, the removal of debris.

In September, just prior contract award, the sub-contractor withdrew the bid for this job which has created substantial delays to our schedule. In November 2002, proposals were requested from two sources. These proposals are due to our office by January 28, 2003 and we anticipate selection of method(s) by February 14, 2003. Our submittal of the addendum to the IM Plan, specifying a removal method, will be made to NMED by February 21, 2003.

DOE appreciates the cooperation shown by NMED and we value your input in all projects related to environmental restoration at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Please direct any questions or comments to David Gregory at (505) 667-5808.

Sincerely,


for Everett Trollinger
Project Manager
Los Alamos Site Office

Cc:
T. Rust RRES/R
D. McInroy RRES/R
J. Young NMED.HWB
D. Gregory LASO-OPM