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Environmental Protection Division

P.O. Box 1663, MS J978
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 667-0666/FAX: (505) 667-5224

National Nuclear Security Administration

Los Alamos Site Office, MS A316
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
(505) 667-7203/FAX (505) 665-4504

Date: January 16, 2008
Refer To: ENV-RCRA-08-012

Mr. James Bearzi, Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION TO RESPOND TO NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY AND NOTICE OF DENIAL FOR THE TRANSURANIC WASTE FACILITY PERMIT MODIFICATION REQUEST, EPA ID NM890010515

The purpose of this letter is to officially notify you that the National Nuclear Security Administration and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (NNSA/LANS) will be unable to respond to the Notice of Deficiency (dated November 13, 2007) and the Notice of Denial (December 20, 2007). Both of these documents request details concerning the Technical Area (TA) 52 Transuranic Waste Management Facility that are beyond what is available in the Conceptual Design (CD-1) package. Additionally, LANL cannot advance design work until the Conceptual Design package is approved and additional work is authorized by the Department of Energy (DOE).

NNSA/LANS appreciate the efforts taken by you and your staff to review the permit modification package submitted in August 2007 for this proposed facility. NNSA/LANS will utilize the information contained in those reviews to revise the modification package when the design of the facility has matured to the point where NMED questions can be completely answered.

As discussed on January 10, 2008, NNSA/LANS is requesting an indefinite extension to respond to the above mentioned Notices at this time. NNSA/LANS will continue to evaluate this situation and determine when it would be able to respond to them, request alternatives and potential interim solutions to addressing the handling of transuranic waste. NNSA/LANS will keep you apprised of these efforts and will seek your input into the most efficient strategy for moving ahead on this issue.

Mr. James Bearzi
ENV-RCRA-08-012

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January 16, 2008

Thank you for your time and efforts. Please contact Jack Ellvinger at (505) 667-0633 with any questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely,



Anthony R. Grieggs
Environmental Protection Division
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sincerely,



Gene Turner
Environmental Permitting
Los Alamos Site Office

ARG:GT:JE/lm

Cy: John Kieling, NMED/HWB, Santa Fe, NM
Steve Pullen, NMED/HWB, Santa Fe, NM
George Rael, LASO-EO, A906
Gene Turner, LASO-EO, A316
Michael B. Mallory, PADOPS, A102
Richard S. Watkins, ADESHQ, K491
Sue Stiger, ADEP, M991
Joel Leeman, PADWP, A107
Ken Hargis, ADEP, M991
Gerald O'Leary, WPD-DO, J591
David Chastain, PP-DO, M878
Tori George, ENV-DO, J978
Peter Carson, WDP-TWPS, J591
Lee Lucero, PP-EM, M878
Jack Ellvinger, ENV-RCRA, K490
Ellen Louderbough, LC-LESH, A187
ENV-RCRA, File, w/enc., K490
IRM-RMMSO, w/enc., A150