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***Environmental Protection Division
Environmental Compliance Programs (ENV-CP)***
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Mr. John E. Kieling
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Subject: Update on the Request for Emergency Treatment of Unstable Hazardous Waste at TA-49, Los Alamos National Laboratory

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update to the New Mexico Environment Department's Hazardous Waste Bureau (NMED-HWB) regarding an emergency treatment (detonation) request of a canister containing unstable nitrocellulose film at Technical Area (TA) 49, which was originally scheduled for December 3, 2015.

On December 2, 2015, Los Alamos Laboratory (LANL) requested approval from NMED-HWB to conduct emergency treatment (detonation) of a canister containing unstable nitrocellulose film. On December 2, 2015, NMED-HWB authorized the LANL Emergency Response Team to treat the unstable hazardous waste. This authorization was only valid through 5:00 pm on December 4, 2015.

At the time LANL was requesting approval from NMED-HWB for treatment of the nitrocellulose film, LANL was also working with our local National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) representative to acquire approval for the destruction of the film. NARA representatives determined it was necessary to acquire approval from the Archivist of the United States of America in accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations §1229.10 requirements. Until authorization is provided by the NARA to conduct the treatment, the destruction has been postponed until further notice.

The film is currently being safely and securely stored in a refrigerator in a Satellite Accumulation Area (SAA) at TA-03-39, Room 26. LANL will contact NMED-HWB to resubmit the request for emergency treatment of this waste canister when NARA approval has been confirmed.

Please contact Mark Haagenstad of my staff at (505) 665-2014 if any additional information is desired.

Sincerely,



Anthony R. Grieggs
Group Leader
Environmental Compliance Programs (ENV-CP)
Los Alamos National Security, LLC

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