

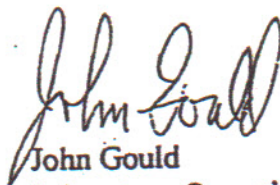
Memorandum

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DATE: November 20, 1998
REPLY TO: KAO/AAMLO/JG
SUBJECT: Mixed Waste Landfill Pits SP-4, 35 and 36
TO: Dick Fate, SNL, MS 1132

You recently requested a directive in regard to the filling of the open pits at the Mixed Waste Landfill (Pits SP-4, SP-35 and SP-36). Comment 7 in the NMED Notice of Deficiency on the MWL RFI Report dated September, 1997, stated, "The surface contact readings must be reduced to background levels by additional shielding at Pits SP-4, SP-35, and SP-36. Alternatively, the radioactive/mixed waste in these pits could be removed and disposed of elsewhere...". As we all realize, under current conditions, removal and off-site disposal of the pit contents is not feasible. As a result, we have selected the option of covering the landfill and closing the site through risk assessment, long-term monitoring and institutional controls.

To comply with the NMED requirement that surface contact readings be reduced to background, the pits should be filled to grade with suitable material. The possibility exists that, at a future date when improved technology and a mixed waste disposal site are available, this site could be remediated by removal of all pit contents. If this remediation should occur, I recommend that we plan in advance for the problems those conducting this effort may face, and fill the pits in a manner that will not unnecessarily complicate removal of the fill material.



John Gould
Laboratory Operations

cc:
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