



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

GRCC 99

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
2044 Galisteo Street
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
(505) 827-1557
Fax (505) 827-1544



PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

June 25, 1999

Mr. David Paulich
H.S & E Manager
Giant-Ciniza
Route 3, Box 7
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Dear Mr. Paulich:

This notification is to inform you that a national press conference will occur soon to announce implementation of a set of reforms to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Corrective Action (RCRA) program, referred to as the *RCRA Cleanup Reforms*. This announcement will be made in Washington, D. C., by Timothy Fields, Jr., the Acting Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Solid Waste & Emergency Response.

The *RCRA Cleanup Reforms* will focus on increasing the pace of cleanup at the 1700+ high priority facilities nationwide. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with input from many states, has developed a Baseline list in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), which requires federal agencies to develop measures for tracking environmental results. This Baseline list will be used to track progress of EPA, the States, and the listed facilities in accelerating corrective action at the 1700+ sites.

The Reforms are the results of EPA's comprehensive efforts to address the key impediments to cleanups, maximize program flexibility, and spur progress with a set of ambitious national cleanup goals. The goals, set by EPA under the GPRA, are that by the year 2005, the States and EPA will verify and document that 95 percent of the 1700+ high priority RCRA facilities have current human exposure under control, and 70 percent of these facilities have migration of contaminated groundwater under control. To ensure that these ambitious goals are achieved, the *RCRA Cleanup Reforms* establish aggressive national cleanup targets for each of the next several years.

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Your facility is listed as a high priority for cleanup on the RCRA Corrective Action Baseline list of facilities. We recognize that in many cases, EPA or the New Mexico Environment Department have already begun working with facilities to clean up past releases under a RCRA Corrective Action Order or Permit. In some cases, remediation may have already occurred or is currently taking place under our direction, or that some facilities may have initiated cleanup on their own, without a formal request from EPA or the State.

If you have not yet begun corrective action at your facility under the direction of EPA or the State, the fact that your facility ranked "high" does not necessarily mean that large-scale remediation will be required. It is the Region's goal to evaluate all remaining unaddressed facilities in the near future to determine to what extent cleanup may be necessary.

We are giving you advance notice of the scheduled press conference so that you have the opportunity to prepare for any questions that may arise because your facility is included on the Baseline. If you have any questions and your facility is located in New Mexico, please call David Neleigh at 214-665-6785.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi

Chief

Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau