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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Research
Service

Southern Plains Area
Jornada Experimental Range

Box 30003, NMSU, Dept. 3JER
Las Cruces, NM 88003-0003
FAX No. (505) 646-5889

June 30, 1992

Emergency Civil Preparedness
ATTN: Mr. Tony Otero
1131 Medpark
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Dear Mr. Otero:

This correspondence follows our telephone conversation of Friday, June 26, 1992. The purpose of this requested letter is to provide your office with the location of an animal carcass burial site that contains low level radioactive material (iodine-125, cesium-134, manganese-54, and zinc-65) on the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Jornada Experimental Range, Dona Ana County, New Mexico. Your office was contacted at the direction of Mr. Don Brooks, Dona Ana County Manager.

The location of this site is T18S, R2E, Sec. 33, SE¼, NE¼, NE¼. Our one scientific experiment which utilized these materials was concluded in 1991 and this one-time burial site is closed. The total combined radioactivity of materials in buried carcasses is less than 0.3 mCi. The site is fenced, well-marked, and routinely inspected. As is true of the entire Jornada Experimental Range, all unescorted public access is restricted. In addition, the site is in the northern portion of the Jornada Experimental Range and not accessible by all-weather roads.

Please contact our offices if additional information regarding this burial site is required. Also, please be advised that use of radioisotopes for research on lands administered by the Agricultural Research Service is authorized and regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission through the USDA, Radiological Safety Staff.

Sincerely,

KRIS M. HAVSTAD
Research Leader

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