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SOLVENT-CONTAINING WASTE SOLIDIFIED WITH VERMICULITE

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MAR 10 1987

Lauren R. Brown, Ph.D
President
JBL Scientific, Inc.
825 Capitolio Way
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Dear Dr. Brown:

This letter responds to your inquiry of December 9, 1986, to Robert Scarberry requesting that the Agency grant either an exemption from the land disposal restrictions or an extension of the effective date of the restrictions for solvent-containing waste generated at your facility and solidified with vermiculite. I apologize for the delay in responding to your inquiry. After the new regulations were published the Agency received numerous requests for guidance on implementing the restrictions.

The Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 do not provide the Agency with the flexibility to grant an extension of the effective date of the land disposal restrictions to generators that need time to find treatment capacity for restricted wastes. However, if adequate treatment capacity does not exist a generator may apply for a case-by-case extension of the effective date if he has entered into a binding contractual commitment to construct or otherwise provide adequate capacity. Likewise, the statute does not provide a mechanism for granting an exemption from the restrictions in cases where the generator finds the cost of treatment to be prohibitive.

I suggest that you evaluate available treatment alternatives, and then choose the most suitable method for treating your waste. For example, biological treatment is an efficient method for treating many solvent-containing wastes. You should contact either your State or EPA Regional Office for assistance. James Berlow, of the EPA Waste Treatment Branch, can provide information on alternative treatment methods. He can be reached at (202) 382-7917.

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If you have additional questions, you may call me at (202)
382-4770.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline W. Sales, Chief
Regulation Development Section