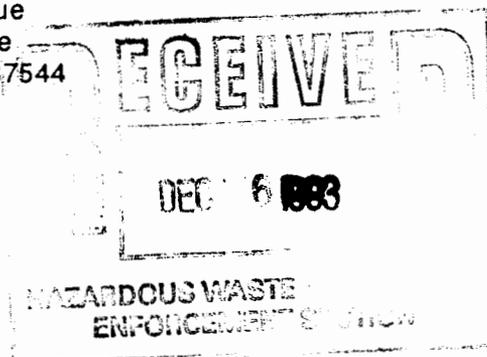




**Department of Energy**

Field Office, Albuquerque  
Los Alamos Area Office  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



November 30, 1993

Dear Neighbor,

On July 31, 1993, a letter was sent to the Secretary of Energy, from the "LANL Coalition," requesting establishment of a Site-Specific Advisory Board for Los Alamos National Laboratory. A September 10 response from DOE Headquarters, said DOE Los Alamos and LANL were just beginning to explore the concept of an advisory board. Since that time, the Coalition Secretary and three other stakeholders participated in one of two meetings held with DOE Los Alamos and LANL staff to brainstorm this concept further. The Coalition Secretary has been in regular contact with us about the request for an advisory board, and we appreciate the group's constructive input on how best to involve affected stakeholders when this process begins.

It is important to advise you that DOE and LANL have committed to the establishment of an advisory board. We agree with the Coalition position that a Los Alamos-specific advisory board should have a scope that addresses a variety of key programmatic issues. We will fund the establishment and operation of an advisory board. Composition, operating structure and "ownership" of the advisory board will rest with our stakeholders; DOE and LANL are available to assist in these processes if asked. These commitments are in concert with stakeholder interests expressed to us thus far.

It was recently proposed to the Coalition Secretary that stakeholder consideration be given to inviting an independent facilitator (for example, The Keystone Center, Western Network, or another mutually-acceptable group), to begin this process publicly. We understand that a Coalition planning meeting will be held in December to discuss this proposal. We look forward to the outcome of that meeting, and stand ready to assist in arranging for a public, facilitated session which will address the interests of all stakeholders.

Enclosed is a sheet outlining the status of advisory board establishment at Los Alamos. If you have any questions, please call Christina Armijo at the DOE Los Alamos Area Office (665-5025), or Harry Otway with Los Alamos National Laboratory (665-4400).

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Bellows  
Area Manager

Enclosure: as stated

copy w/enclosure:

- B. G. Twining, Manager, DOE AL
- S. S. Hecker, Director, LANL
- J. F. Jackson, Deputy Director, LANL



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General



**Department of Energy**  
Field Office, Albuquerque  
Los Alamos Area Office  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

**November 1993**

**STATUS OF ADVISORY BOARD ESTABLISHMENT  
AT LOS ALAMOS**

The Department of Energy Los Alamos Area Office and its Los Alamos National Laboratory are committed to improving stakeholder involvement by obtaining their recommendations for key programmatic decisions. In doing so, we ask the public's participation as we work toward addressing the interests of all stakeholders through a citizens advisory board for DOE and LANL facilities.

Background

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chartered the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration (FFER) Dialogue Committee in 1992. The Committee, facilitated by The Keystone Center of Colorado, consisted of a diverse group of interests, such as federal, Tribal, state, citizen, environmental, and labor interests. At the Committee's December 1992 meeting, an Interim Report was approved, the recommendations of which encouraged establishment of "Site-Specific Advisory Boards" at federal facilities. It was felt that SSAB's would provide early and meaningful stakeholder involvement in federal cleanup decisions, and establish a new way of conducting environmental restoration at federal facilities, including those under the purview of the Department of Energy.

After the Interim Report was released, it became clear that at several DOE sites stakeholder interests were much broader than environmental restoration. With the Secretary of Energy supporting the concept of SSAB's, a number of DOE sites including Los Alamos have expressed interest in an advisory board that would address all programs of the site involved.

Status of Advisory Board for Los Alamos

- √ On July 31, 1993, a request from the LANL Coalition including 61 stakeholder signatures was sent to the Secretary of Energy, requesting an SSAB for Los Alamos under the Keystone process.
- √ In a September 10 response to the Coalition, DOE Headquarters acknowledged receipt of the request, and said DOE and LANL were just beginning to discuss the concept with its staff.
- √ Two official meetings within DOE and LANL to brainstorm the concept were held in September and October, with one of the meetings including four stakeholder representatives.
- √ During late October and early November, DOE and LANL continued to maintain contact with the LANL Coalition Secretary about this concept.
- √ On November 8, a verbal offer was made to the Coalition Secretary, that The Keystone Center staff be brought to New Mexico for a Coalition- and agency-cosponsored informational meeting, allowing the public to learn first-hand about the Center's process and establishing a public forum to explore alternatives for moving forward with preferred stakeholder options. We understand this offer is currently being considered and discussed among Coalition members.

√ Three additional community dialogue/working groups expressed an interest in the SSAB process during November. These, and all stakeholders' interests will be included equally as this process evolves.

While DOE or LANL program staff may discuss the advisory group process as part of their broader stakeholder involvement programs, these discussions should not be misconstrued as initiating an advisory board process without stakeholder input. Informal discussions will likely continue, and should be viewed as a healthy process in acclimating DOE and LANL staff to a changing environment that emphasizes the importance of stakeholder involvement in their activities.

### Principles We Have Adopted

The following representative principles will guide DOE and LANL in this effort. They may not be all-inclusive, but attempt to merge the intent of the Keystone process with stakeholder interests expressed thus far.

√ Stakeholders include affected or interested parties, e.g., residents that live in the community or region; representatives of citizen, environmental, and public interest groups whose members live in the region; workers or their representatives involved in or affected by LANL operations; elected and appointed government officials; Native American Tribes; and regulators of LANL activities.

√ DOE and LANL will not move forward without stakeholder input. We will rely on the judgment of a third party to facilitate the process of establishing an advisory board.

√ As the regulated agency, DOE will fund the establishment of an advisory board, including costs involved to host public meetings. At these public meetings, all stakeholders will be treated as equals. All decisions regarding this process are made by the stakeholders.

√ As stakeholders have expressed, a Los Alamos advisory board will address a broad range of issues with respect to Los Alamos. Ultimately, the interests of the stakeholders will determine the advisory board scope.

√ DOE and LANL endorse the FFER Committee recommendation that, at most, one advisory board be established at the facility, in this case Los Alamos.

√ The composition of a Los Alamos advisory board will be determined by the stakeholders. DOE, LANL, EPA and the State of New Mexico will serve only in an ex-officio capacity.

√ DOE has an obligation to reject for reconsideration a proposed list of advisory board members *if* the list does not ensure a sufficient diversity of viewpoints, or an appropriate balance of affected stakeholders. DOE will not, however, reject individual members from the proposed list.

√ Stakeholders are ultimately the owners of the advisory board and its process. DOE and LANL responsibilities are to respond to advisory board advice and recommendations.

Questions concerning DOE or LANL roles in the SSAB process may be answered by contacting DOE LAAO at 505 665 5025, or the Los Alamos National Laboratory at 505 665 4400.