

General



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503

GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

(505) 827-3000

March 14, 1997

Thomas P. Grumbly, Under Secretary of Energy
Department of Energy
7B252 Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Grumbly:

It has been brought to my attention that the Department of Energy has tentatively prepared *preferred* alternatives for the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for review by the potentially affected states. The preferred alternatives selected for the Low-Level Radioactive Waste and Mixed Low-Level Radioactive Waste programs potentially list Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) at Los Alamos, New Mexico as a regional disposal site.

Disposing large volumes of waste at LANL of any type is highly discouraged. Shipments of waste to or from LANL would have to be by truck and are limited to public highways since no rail system for shipment of wastes is available to the site. These highways pass through some of the most populated areas in the state with the most traffic.

New Mexico is already the proposed disposal site for Transuranic and Transuranic Mixed (radioactive) Waste for the entire nation, including the sixteen major DOE sites. Within the next forty years, 160,000 cubic meters of waste from the DOE sites may be expected to be placed in the geological repository at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. New Mexico is still in the process of solving the problems associated with the implementation of this DOE strategy.



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Because of these concerns, New Mexico should be excluded from consideration as a regional disposal site for Low-Level Radioactive Waste and Mixed Low-Level Radioactive Waste programs. Thank you for your consideration and allowing me to respond to these very important matters on behalf of the citizens of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary E. Johnson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gary E. Johnson
Governor

GEJ/MEW:cne

cc: Senator Pete Dominici
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Rep. Steve Schiff
Rep. Joseph R. Skeen