



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

June 25, 1997

General
State of New Mexico

ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
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MARK E. WEIDLER
SECRETARY

EDGAR T. THORNTON, III
DEPUTY SECRETARY

Alvin Alm
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
Department of Energy
FA14/SROS
1000 Independence Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Alm:

Thank you for the informative letter addressed to Gary Johnson, Governor of New Mexico, dated May 29, 1997 which accompanied the Final Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). The Department of Energy had informed New Mexico of the preferred alternatives for the Waste Management PEIS in March 1997. 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.

The governor responded with a letter to Thomas Grumbly, dated March 14, 1997 (see enclosure) noting concerns and the concluding that the state should be excluded from consideration as a regional disposal site for Low-Level Radioactive Waste and Mixed Low-Level Radioactive Waste programs.

As you stated in your May 29th letter, the stakeholders would be consulted as the decision making process for the waste sites continue. Stakeholder involvement is important for the waste disposal site issues, and New Mexicans, specifically, should be involved and heard. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Should you have any questions on this issue, please contact Mr. Benito J. Garcia or Ms. Janice Archuleta of my staff. Mr. Garcia can be reached at (505) 827-1557 and Ms. Archuleta can be reached at (505) 827-1867.

Sincerely,

Ed Kelley, Ph.D., Director
Water & Waste Management Division



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