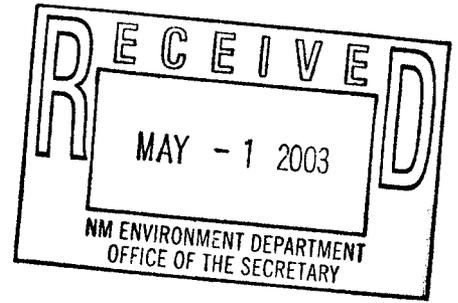


General



**Department of Energy**  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Los Alamos Site Office  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



April 29, 2003

Mr. Ron Curry  
Secretary  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0110

Dear Mr. Curry:

In November 2002, the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) notified your office of its preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) for a proposal to lease land within the boundaries of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to the Incorporated County of Los Alamos (the County) for the purpose of the County's constructing and operating a new distribution center and school shop facility. The distribution center and school shop facility would be located at the southwest corner of the intersection of East Jemez Road (also known locally as the "Truck Route") and State Road 4.

Through its preparation of the subject EA, undertaken to satisfy the compliance requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NNSA has identified several potential adverse impacts to site and area resources associated with implementing the proposed lease of land at LANL. We believe these potential adverse impacts to cultural resources, visual resources, and public health and safety are significant both in terms of context and intensity according to definition of that term provided by the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1508.27). The NNSA is, therefore, ceasing preparation of the subject EA. If we later decide to pursue the proposed lease of land at the southwest corner of the intersection of East Jemez Road and State Road 4 to the Incorporated County of Los Alamos for the stated purpose, your office will be notified of our intent to undertake the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to NEPA compliance requirements.

If you have any questions concerning the Los Alamos Site Office's NEPA Compliance Program, please contact me at (505) 667-8690.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth R. Withers".

Elizabeth R. Withers  
NEPA Compliance Officer  
Los Alamos Site Office

OFO:8EW-013



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