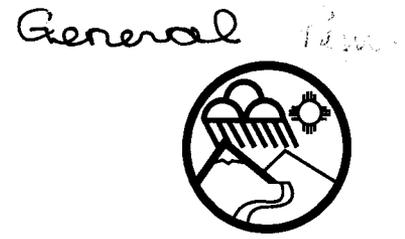




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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 16, 2004

Timothy A. DeLong, Chair
Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
1660 Old Pecos Trail, Suite B
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: NNM CAB PRIORITIES FOR 2005 WORKPLAN

Dear Mr. DeLong:

Secretary Curry has forwarded to me your letter of June 10, 2004, for response. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board's (NNMCAB's) work. Toward that end, I have identified the following issues as our recommendations for the NNMCAB's evaluation over the next year.

- Draft Order on Consent – NMED expects to issue a draft Order on Consent governing facility-wide cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) this fall. The NNMCAB commented on the previous version released on May 2, 2002. This document, if executed, would be the guiding – and enforceable – instrument of cleanup at LANL for a decade or more.
- Ground water investigations – LANL has had difficulty in the past executing its plans – NMED approved or otherwise – for ground water investigation. Careful citizen oversight could bring pressure to bear on LANL to ensure its investigations and cleanups are technically sound.
- Remedy selections – As LANL's site investigations become completed, they will begin to enter the remedy selection process. Such remedies will be available for public comment before they become final. During the next year proposed remedies for sites such as Airport Landfill, MDA H, and the 260 Outfall will likely be released for public comment. The NNMCAB's input is encouraged.
- Permit reissuance – NMED expects to release LANL's draft RCRA permit for



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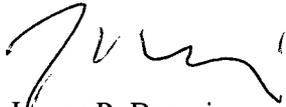
Timothy DeLong, NNM CAB
August 16, 2004
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public comment sometime in 2005. This document will control all hazardous and mixed waste management activities at LANL for a decade. Public input, including that of the NNM CAB, is crucial.

- Surface water monitoring – LANL's surface water monitoring program has been operated for years with very little questioning by the public. LANL will likely be conducting such monitoring under a new regulatory regime within a few months. Public scrutiny of their program, especially in light of recent evidence suggesting off-site migration of both chemical and radioactive pollutants, could play a key role in developing the monitoring and site stabilization approach.

Although there are many other issues confronting regulatory, advocacy, and oversight bodies with respect to environmental issues at LANL, I hope these few will help the NNM CAB develop its approach for the coming year. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you or any member of the NNM CAB have any questions.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: Ron Curry, Cabinet Secretary, NMED
Charles Lundstrom, Director, NMED Water & Waste Management Division