



James General

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

P.O. Box 30 Los Alamos, NM 87544 (505) 662-8080 Fax (505) 662-8079
Website: www.lac-nm.us

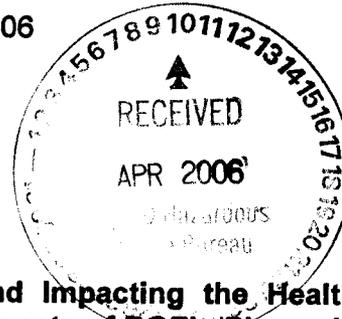
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Peter A. Dwyer

April 6, 2006

Assistant Secretary James Rispoli
U.S. Department of Energy/EM-1
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585



RE: Maintaining DOE's Commitments and Impacting the Health, Welfare and Economy of Los Alamos County – Impacts of DOE's Planned Rescission (FY '06) and Cuts (FY'07) in Cleanup Funding from Los Alamos

Dear Assistant Secretary Rispoli:

Los Alamos County is concerned that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is significantly curtailing the environmental cleanup activities at Los Alamos National Laboratory. On top of DOE's requested cut of over 66% of the Los Alamos cleanup budget in FY'07, the County has learned that your office is now also planning to cut (rescind) over 12% of the current year's environmental cleanup budget – an approximate \$20 million cut. The County, prior to the planned budget cuts has been concerned that the Department is under-budgeting environmental cleanup activities and now we are concerned that you are slowing or stopping important cleanup projects in our community.

These new FY'06 cuts along with the planned FY'07 reduction will likely slow the redevelopment of the Trinity Site (including MDAB), a joint project of the Los Alamos School Board and Los Alamos County to create economic sustainability opportunities in our community (an estimated investment of \$54 million in public funds and \$115 million in private funds). The planned rescission from this year's budget and FY'07 cuts are likely to stop or significantly halt the MDAB cleanup all together. Further, several other cleanup projects (including TA-21) that impact health, safety, the environment and economic sustainability issues in the County are impacted by these large planned cuts. The County is also concerned that the cuts will impact the cleanup consent agreement with the State, which will result in fines that could have been used toward cleanup costs, and further slow cleanup.

Pushing cleanup to "future years" is not in the best interest of the County's health, environment or economy. The impact of these planned FY'06 and FY'07 cuts will be felt by the citizens of Los Alamos.

The County has supported DOE through the accelerated cleanup program process by accepting cuts in past years in our cleanup budgets. Now that other DOE sites are reaching completion, Los Alamos is being faced to deal with larger cuts in its cleanup budget. We believe that DOE should honor its past commitments to Los Alamos and ensure that we have enough funds to cleanup the DOE environmental contamination in our community.



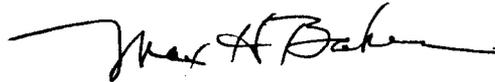
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**Assistant Secretary James Rispoli
U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA
April 6, 2006
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Los Alamos County stands ready to work with the DOE to accomplish our joint goal of accelerated cleanup.

Please contact me with any questions at (505) 662-8080.

Sincerely,



**Max H. Baker
County Administrator**

MHB/ss

**cc: Senator Domenici
Senator Bingaman
Congressman Udall
Governor Richardson
Ed Wilmot, NNSA
Ambassador Brooks, NNSA
Ron Curry, NMED
James Biarzi, NMED
Clay Sell, Deputy Secretary of Energy
County Council
County School Board
Anthony Mortillaro, Assistant County Administrator**