General

ENTERED

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

DIANE DENISH
Lieutenant Governor

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RON CURRY
Secretary

JON GOLDSTEIN
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 28, 2008

The Honorable Norman Cooeyate
Pueblo of Zuni
P.O. Box 339
Zuni, NM 87327

RE: COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS ABOUT LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

Dear Governor Cooeyate:

The New Mexico Environment Department (Department), in collaboration with the New Mexico Community Foundation (Foundation), is hosting a series of "Listening Sessions" to better understand issues and perceptions that residents of northern New Mexico have regarding the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The first session was held on July 22, 2008 in Santa Fe. The conversation in Santa Fe touched on economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental issues pertaining to LANL. The next Session will be held in Los Alamos September 23, 2008 from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm at Fuller Lodge.

While the Department and the Foundation welcome tribal representation in any or all of the sessions, we recognize and respect the special government-to-government relationship the tribes have with the State. To this end, we respectfully ask you to consider hosting a Tribal Listening Session at Zuni Pueblo geared specifically for your community to allow us to learn more about the unique tribal issues and perceptions regarding LANL.

As mentioned in my July 15, 2008 letter to you, the intent of the sessions is for the Department and the Foundation to better understand perceptions and thoughts concerning LANL, to provide a forum for the public to express those perceptions, and most importantly, to listen. By listening to what people have to say, the Department will be better able to address communities' interests in its regulatory actions and perhaps hold more targeted workshops in the future to inform

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interested persons on environmental and regulatory issues. The sessions will help us understand the issues and priorities important to northern New Mexico and tribal communities, and better incorporate these concerns in our decisions about how to handle potential environmental risks posed by LANL.

If Zuni Pueblo would like NMED to conduct a Listening Session, please have your staff contact Rebecca Kay of my staff at (505) 476-6040, or by email at rebecca.kay@state.nm.us. They may also contact Milton Bluehouse, Jr., the Department's Tribal Liaison, at (505) 827-0990 or by e-mail at milton.bluehouse@state.nm.us. Of course, if you or your staff have any questions do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Respectfully yours,

James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: R. Kay, NMED-HWB
J. Kieling, NMED-HWB
M. Bluehouse, Jr., NMED
S. Beran, Pueblo of Zuni-EPP