

General

UNRECORDED



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary



BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

September 25, 2008

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RON CURRY
Secretary
JON GOLDSTEIN
Deputy Secretary

K. Wylie
P.O. Box 245
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0254

Dear K. Wylie:

I have been made aware of your letter to Sue Vorenberg of the *Santa Fe New Mexican* in which you express concerns about the New Mexico Environment Department's support for the RACER project, and the Department's relationship with the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). I understand your concerns, and recognize many of the same shortcomings with RACER that you do.

I believe it is important to keep in mind that the most powerful part of RACER is that all environmental data in the possession of LANL are included. Put another way, neither LANL nor any other party can remove data from RACER, or select only certain data to present. This framework was developed in response to concerns expressed by members of the public and certain advocacy groups after the Cerro Grande Fire that LANL's data are not available to the public, and even when they are, the data made available tend to be "cherry picked" by LANL. RACER puts all the data in the hands of the user, and attempts to put tools in those same hands to make decisions about the usability of those data.

Governor Richardson and I have made cleanup of LANL a top priority of this Administration. That's why we executed an historic and enforceable fence-to-fence cleanup order that tells LANL how, where, and when to clean up its decades-long legacy of pollution. I thank you for expressing your concerns, and assure you the Environment Department is dedicated to effectively enforcing all environmental requirements at LANL.

Sincerely,

Ron Curry
Cabinet Secretary

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