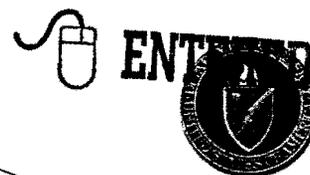




*General*  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Los Alamos Site Office  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



APR 02 2010



Mr. Ron Curry  
Secretary  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

Dear Mr. Curry:

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Los Alamos Site Office is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to consider alternative ways to meet new waste water discharge quality standards for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) operations. In particular, the EA will focus on the operational waste water discharges that currently are released to the upper end of Sandia Canyon at LANL. The EA will also consider possible bounding scenario environmental remediation actions that could be undertaken in the upper Sandia Canyon area. Actions taken that alter outfall discharges, or to address site contamination issues, within the upper portion of Sandia Canyon over the next 5 to 10 years would likely indirectly, directly or cumulatively impact the same set of natural resource elements located within and near the canyon. These resources include a small wetland area, potential habitat for sensitive species, and areas used by large game species. The EA will also include a consideration of the No Action Alternative as required by NEPA implementing regulations. Various impact mitigation measures will also be identified for possible implementation.

**The State of New Mexico Environment Department is invited to participate in the preparation of the EA as a Cooperating Agency, per the interagency cooperation provisions of the Council of Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR 1501.6).** The New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have also been invited to participate as cooperating agencies. If you are interested in being a Cooperating Agency for the development of this EA, please contact me at (505) 845-4984 or via e-mail at: [ewithers@doeal.gov](mailto:ewithers@doeal.gov). I may also be reached by writing to me at 3747 West Jemez Road, Los Alamos, NM 87544th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

Sincerely,

For Elizabeth Withers  
Document Manager  
NEPA Compliance Officer

14.10 NSM:8EW-245214



APR 02 2010

cc:

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