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July 6, 1992

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Ms. Ellen Caldwell
Permits Branch (6W-PS)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

SURFACE WATER
QUALITY DIVISION

Re: Lbs Alamos National Lab National Pollutant Discharge
Elimination System Permit

Ms. Caldwell:

I am writing to request an EPA hearing or to give you my written comment on New Mexico state certification of LANL's Pollutant Discharge Permit.

I support the state of New Mexico's requirement that LANL apply the same water quality standards to discharges in dry arroyos or ephemeral streams as for fisheries. If you lived in New Mexico you would understand that there is no such thing as a dry arroyo. Arroyos are made by water, they would not be there if there were no water. LANL arroyos drain into the Rio Grande river which flows through the most populated city in New Mexico and is the source of our water. I do not believe the EPA would chance polluting this river?!

The U. S. Department of Energy's "tiger team" referred to documents reviewed during it's last "audit" of LANL that showed that some of these so called ephemeral streams reach the Rio Grande river. The EPA has always classified these streams and arroyos as fisheries and should continue to do so.

I feel strongly that it is best to be conservative in the approach to LANL discharges which include radioactive materials, heavy metals, human sewage and organic compounds; this is especially true because we are dealing with the watershed to a major US river.

Thank you for your attention. Please notify me if there is to be a hearing on this matter.

Respectfully,

J. Hamilton

3008 San Patricia NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

cc: Mr. Jim Piatt, Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau



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