State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
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GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

Permit

May 2, 2002

The Honorable Paul Suazo
Governor, Pueblo of Tesuque
Route 5, Box 360-T
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER TO LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

Dear Governor Suazo:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is issuing a Draft Order to Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) pursuant to NMSA 1978 §§ 74-4-10.1 and 74-4-13 of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act. The Draft Order contains investigation and cleanup requirements and a schedule for implementation at LANL.

LANL is a contractor-operated research facility under the administration of the United States Department of Energy. LANL has been in operation since the early 1940's. Throughout its history, LANL has conducted experimental research on development of nuclear weapons and explosive materials and has generated and disposed of on-site a variety of hazardous, radioactive and solid wastes. Disposal activities at LANL started in the early 1940's and some continue to the present day.

NMED is inviting the public to submit written comments on the Draft Order during a sixty (60) day public comment period. The enclosed Fact Sheet provides additional information, the locations where the Order may be reviewed, and the procedures for submitting comments. The comments will be accepted through **5:00 p.m., July 1, 2002.**

In addition, public informational meetings will be held from **6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**, at the Northern New Mexico Community College, Center for Arts Amphitheater, 921 Paseo de Oñate, Espanola, on **May 21, 2002**; at the Jemez Springs High School Gymnasium, 8501 Highway 4, Jemez Pueblo on **May 23, 2002**; at the Smith Auditorium, Los Alamos High School, 1400 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos on **May 28, 2002** and at the Harold Runnels Building, 1190 St. Francis

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Drive, Santa Fe on **May 30, 2002**. These meetings will provide information as to the general content and organization of the Order. NMED personnel will be available to answer questions to clarify the content of the Order. NMED will not accept oral comments at these meetings, although members of the public may submit written comments at that time. NMED will issue the final Order after considering all written comments received.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact James Bearzi, Chief of NMED's Hazardous Waste Bureau at (505) 428-2512.

Sincerely,

Peter Maggiore

Peter Maggiore
Cabinet Secretary

Enclosure