



LANL ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ 04 Permit
United States Senate

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September 30, 2004

Mr. Richard E. Greene
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Greene:

I recently received a copy of the letter sent to you by my constituent, Ms. Joni Arends, Executive Director of Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS), in which she requests a 60-day public comment period on the draft Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement (FFCA) under the Clean Water Act for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL); I have enclosed a copy of that letter for your convenience.

Given the scarcity of water resources in New Mexico, water quality is of significant concern to me, and my constituents. As you know, LANL is situated on a high plateau, with streams connecting directly and indirectly to the Rio Grande River. Water from the Rio Grande is used for farming and domestic purposes by the residents who live up and down its banks, thus any contamination from LANL has the potential to directly affect their health, wellbeing, and livelihood. With those considerations in mind, I request that my constituents be given the opportunity to voice their opinions on the draft FFCA under the Clean Water Act for the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

As Ms. Arends notes, the EPA has a precedent of releasing FFCA's for 60-day public comment periods; an action that I fully support, and that is supported in this case by the Department of Energy, the State of New Mexico's Environment Department, as well as the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board. I hope that you will give this important issue your full consideration and find a way to incorporate citizen participation into this process.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff member, Helen Dorado, at 505-988-6647; I will look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator



JB/hdgsf
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PLEASE REPLY TO:

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