

Kieling, John, NMENV

From: Sharon Eklund [sharon.eklund@astound.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2009 9:08 PM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: Comments--Revised Draft RCRA Renewal Permit For Los Alamos National Laboratory

Attachments: LANL RCRA comments.doc



LANL RCRA
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Mr. Kieling:

Attached please find my response to the opportunity to provide comments on the revised draft RCRA renewal permit for LANL. I am requesting a public hearing as described in my letter, and I consider this subject of the highest concern to the citizens of New Mexico.

Your prompt response is appreciated.

Sharon Eklund
48 Paseo de la Tierra
Santa Fe, NM 87506

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48 Paseo de la Tierra
Santa Fe, NM 87506
September 3, 2009

Mr. John E. Kieling, Program Manager
New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Kieling:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the July 6, 2009, version of the revised draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit for renewal of the existing 1989 permit for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

As a 30+ year resident of Northern New Mexico, I have been following the renewal process as administered by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for some time, and frankly, I have grave concerns about NMED's performance in the process. I am aware that LANL's submittal of renewal documentation to NMED dates back 13 years, and NMED was to have completed the permit renewal process 10 years ago. I find it incomprehensible that the administrative record now includes over a million pages yet the permit renewal remains incomplete.

The cost of NMED's performance failure both to the US taxpayer in terms of the total LANL effort required to respond to NMED to date, as well as to the New Mexico taxpayer in terms of NMED's lack of timeliness, is ~~unconscionable and~~ inexcusable.

I hereby request a public hearing to discuss the NMED permitting process and NMED's ability to administer RCRA permitting for LANL and similarly complex facilities in this state. The people of New Mexico and all interested parties deserve the opportunity to determine whether NMED is serving them well in managing RCRA permitting and whether they would be better served were NMED to relinquish the RCRA permitting authority to the Environmental Protection Agency.

I am a retiree from the University of California and a concerned private citizen of the state of New Mexico. Thank you for your consideration of this request for a public meeting. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Sharon R. Eklund