



Permit



**Rio Arriba  
Board of County Commissioners**

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**COUNTY MANAGER**  
Tomas Cámpos, III

August 5, 2011



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

Mr. Kieling:

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has obtained a permit from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for management of hazardous waste. Currently, LANL is requesting a permit modification that would add two "interim" status units to the previously approved 26 storage or waste treatment sites. Our understanding of this permit request is that it also standardizes procedures to industry best practices, reduces the overall number of detonation and waste treatment sites on Laboratory property, provides an environmental baseline analysis, and details open detonation alternatives.

Given the long history that LANL has demonstrated the proper environmental responsibility for the treatment of high explosive waste and the visible concern for public and worker safety, the Rio Arriba County Commission supports the Laboratory's request for the RCRA permit modification. We believe that detonations in the Laboratory's remote and secure areas are a better alternative to transporting these unstable, explosive wastes on the public roads through our communities. We further believe that a denial of open detonation capability would harm our country's nation security without an appreciable benefit to the environment.

Sincerely,

Felipe Martinez  
Rio Arriba Commission Chairman

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