Permit

ENTERED

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

DIANE DENISH
Lieutenant Governor

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
www.nmenv.state.nm.us

RON CURRY
Secretary

JON GOLDSTEIN
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 15, 2008

Pueblo of Cochiti
The Honorable Joseph Ernest Suina
P.O. Box 70
Cochiti Pueblo, NM 87072

RE: COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS FOR LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

Dear Governor Suina:

The New Mexico Environment Department (Department), in collaboration with the New Mexico Community Foundation (Foundation), is hosting a series of "Listening Sessions" to better understand issues and perceptions that residents of northern New Mexico have regarding the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The first session is July 22, 2008 in Santa Fe.

The intent of the sessions is for the Department and the Foundation to better understand peoples' perceptions and thoughts concerning LANL, to provide a forum for the public to express those perceptions, and most importantly, to listen. By listening to what people have to say, the Department will be better able to address communities' interests in its regulatory actions and perhaps hold more targeted workshops in the future to inform interested persons on environmental and regulatory issues. The sessions will help us understand the issues and priorities important to northern New Mexico and tribal communities, and better incorporate these concerns in our decisions about how to handle potential environmental risks posed by LANL.

The conversation is expected to touch on economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental issues pertaining to LANL. The first session is being held in Santa Fe on Tuesday, July 22, 2008 from 5.30 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center on Rodeo Road. Other sessions in Northern New Mexico will be announced at the meeting.

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I take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you and your staff to attend this and future sessions, and to listen along with us. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or have your staff contact Rebecca Kay of my staff at (505) 476-6040, or by email at rebecca.kay@state.nm.us for more information.

Sincerely,

James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: R. Kay, NMED-HWB
J. Kieling, NMED-HWB
M. Bluehouse, Jr., NMED
J. Pecos, Pueblo of Cochiti-ED