

Subject: County Priorities**Date:** Thu, 9 Nov 2000 08:20:27 -0700**From:** "Brueggeman, Fred" <Brueggeman@lac.losalamos.nm.us>**To:** "canepa_julie@lanl.gov" <canepa_julie@lanl.gov>, "ttaylor@doeal.gov" <ttaylor@doeal.gov>,

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CC: "Baker, Max" <BakerM@lac.losalamos.nm.us>

As I mentioned at the SWMU Working Group meeting, yesterday, I don't want there to be any questions about the County's priorities for cleaning up potential public health and safety risks. While the County is concerned about and supports the soil removal of "hot spots" in Acid Canyon, in actuality the Canyon is as clean now as it has ever been in the 35 years of County ownership and public use. The County's No. 1 (and probably 2 - 10) health and safety risk is to the 400 families who lost their homes in the Cerro Grande Fire. In order to expedite the rebuilding of their neighborhood, the County has requested access to some 50 acres of DOE land scheduled to be conveyed to the County under PL 105-119. As we have conveyed personally to Assistant DOE Secretary for Environmental Management Carolyn Huntoon prior to the Fire, we are dismayed at the funding reductions to LANL for environmental remediation (ER) activities required for the land transfer. The Fire has shifted our need for some of these lands for contractor equipment and material mobilization from urgent to critical. Fire survivors are being quoted premiums of up to \$20 per square foot if the contractors cannot mobilize their work in the County. We are requesting that all possible DOE resources for ER activities be allocated to expedite these land availability projects, and that long-standing contamination issues be deferred for the next few years. Similarly, we request the cooperation of NMED in clearing these lands for temporary or permanent uses as soon as possible. The PRS's on these sites are all included on the priority list we provided to Secretary Maggiore and Deputy Secretary Ritzma in June 1999. As with DOE, these priorities for NMED cooperation have become urgent since the Fire.

We are requesting that any request for access to Acid Canyon to undertake soil removals work be accompanied by a thorough explanation that proceeding with this work is not diverting resources from the County's urgent priority.

Please contact me at 662-8296 if you have any questions on this statement.



3274