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*Classified  
my reading file  
by Barry [unclear]*

**Department of Energy**  
Field Office, Albuquerque  
Los Alamos Area Office  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

JAN 29 1996

**RECEIVED**

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NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Ed Kelly, Director  
Water and Waste Management Division  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Mr. Kelly:

By way of a letter dated January 19, 1996, the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), Los Alamos Area Office (LAAO) notified your office that it is considering a proposal to perform facility upgrades to the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building in Technical Area 3 at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico. In addition, LAAO prepared a pre-decisional draft Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1101) to analyze the potential environmental consequences of this proposed action and its alternatives. A copy of this EA was provided to you as an enclosure to the January 19, 1996 letter.

In the January 19 letter, you were requested to provide within 14 days from receipt of the letter any comments you may have on the EA to Elizabeth Withers, LAAO NEPA Compliance Officer, Los Alamos Area Office, 528 35th Street, MS-A316, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544. The 14-day review and comment period is consistent with DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, and has been the selected review period for the past several LAAO environmental assessments released to the public. However, as a result of Stakeholder requests, I have agreed to extend the review and comment period by two additional weeks for this EA. The official comment period for the CMR EA will now close on February 16, 1996. Comments sent within this period will be considered prior to approval of the Final EA. Comments sent after this period may not allow sufficient time to be considered prior to approval of the Final EA. Also, please inform Ms. Withers if you do not have any comments. Following the completion of the Final EA, the LAAO Area Manager will issue a NEPA determination regarding the proposed project. LAAO will provide your office with a copy of the Final EA and the NEPA determination.

If you or your office staff wish to receive further information about this proposed project or the DOE NEPA process, please contact me at (505) 667-8690.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth B. Withers*

Elizabeth B. Withers  
NEPA Compliance Officer  
Office of Environment and Projects

LAAMEP:6EW-042

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