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LANL*

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

*To Bowles  
Bartman  
PIO*

**OCT 06 1995**

**RECEIVED**

OCT 12 1995

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 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, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Kelly:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1100) for the construction and operation of the High Explosives Wastewater Treatment Facility (HEWTF) at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) was approved and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued on September 27, 1995. On August 25, 1995, the Department of Energy (DOE) provided the pre-approval EA to the State of New Mexico and the Cochiti, Jemez, Santa Clara, and San Ildefonso Pueblos for their review and placed it in DOE's public reading rooms in Albuquerque and Los Alamos. We also provided copies to interested members of the public at the same time it was provided to the state and tribes for their pre-approval review. No comments were received by DOE on the pre-approval EA.

The EA analyzed the DOE proposal to construct and operate a new facility to treat High Explosives (HE) contaminated wastewaters. The new facility and a support garage would be constructed adjacent to an existing temporary facility and would require the disturbance of approximately one acre of land. The existing facility would be removed. In addition, as a result of HE process improvements, this action would reduce by 99 percent the amount of HE contaminated wastewater being discharged to the environment by eliminating 15 permitted outfalls. The proposed action would continue to allow for the discharge of uncontaminated stormwater run-off. The reduction in wastewater discharges would affect small man induced wetlands associated with the HE outfalls at LANL.

We thank you for your interest in our National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. A copy of the final EA and the FONSI have been placed in the DOE public reading rooms in Los Alamos and Albuquerque. If you have any questions on this transmittal or any other aspect of our NEPA program, or you would like to request a single copy of either the EA or the



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Mr. Ed Kelly

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FONSI, please contact me at (505) 667-8690 or by facsimile at (505) 665-4872. I can also be reached at the mailing address provided with this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth R. Withers".

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

LAAMEP:9EW-095