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**EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLOS COUNCIL** PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 969  
San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico 87566  
(505) 852-4265

**September 13, 1989**

**Mr. Walter Youngblood  
Public Health Division  
State of New Mexico  
Health and Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504**

**Dear Mr. Youngblood:**

**The Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council has officially adopted the enclosed RESOLUTION and POSITION PAPER relative to the Los Alamos National Laboratory's application to continue handling hazardous waste.**

**Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call me or Mr. Walter Dasheno at 852-4265 for additional information.**

**Sincerely,**

**Bernie F. Teba, Executive Director  
EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLOS COUNCIL**

**Enclosure**



8651

**POSITION PAPER OF THE  
EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLOS COUNCIL (ENIPC)  
ON THE  
APPLICATION BY THE  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
TO CONTINUE TO HANDLE HAZARDOUS WASTE**

**As the representatives for the Eight Indian Pueblos communities of Northern New Mexico and with centuries of respectful habitation in this land, we wish to express our concern about the Los Alamos National Laboratory's plan to begin regular incineration of "mid-level (TRU) radioactive and hazardous wastes.**

**Our forefather's settled in this region many centuries ago with the belief that the land and its resources would live in harmony and that we as the caretakers of this land would, heretofore, protect and preserve those resources. "Living in harmony" means to respecting Mother Earth and Nature and maintaining a balance between them and their children.**

**Today we face a different situation. In this age of "nuclear energy harness", it became obvious after a time, what are we to do with the waste and how can we "destroy" it without harming man or his environment. It apparently cannot be done safely even though attempts are made to do so.**

**In researching the issues relative to the Laboratory's application, we have identified some of the primary problems with their incinerator plan and would request a response from your office on the following:**

- \*\* Radioactive materials are not destroyed by fire. They are merely reduced in size, increasing their chance to escape through filter systems and to be ingested or inhaled. One of the radioactive elements, plutonium, we understand lasts**

240,000 years and is deadly in microscopic quantities. We also understand that the emissions from the smokestack will not be monitored.

- \*\* After incineration, a highly toxic and dangerous ash containing radionuclides, heavy metals, dioxins and PIC's will remain to be disposed of.
- \*\* There is also a high probability of airborne releases of radioactive materials occurring through the smokestack. While the stacks will be equipped with filter systems to screen out particulate matter, no foolproof filtration system exists. Massive atmospheric releases of plutonium and other deadly radioactive elements in recent years at DOE's Rocky Flats Plant in Colorado have proven to be the rule, not the exception.
- \*\* The filter's will be cleaned with water. This process pollutes the water and turns yet another precious resource into yet another waste. Thus, creating another problem.
- \*\* The current regulations stipulate that outside authorities must be notified of airborne releases within 24 hours. With even a gentle wind blowing, released radiation would spread to the surrounding region in a matter of hours, not days. Can LANL guarantee that no human, animal or other physical resource would be exposed and die from its effect.
- \*\* The primary standards that will regulate LANL's incineration process were drawn up by the Atomic Energy Commission in the late 1940's. They are dangerously out of date and not in line with present-day understanding of the dangers of low but sustained exposure to radiation and hazardous wastes.

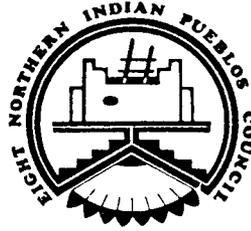
- \*\* DOE will essentially "self-regulate" and "self-monitor" the incinerator. As revealed around the nation over the last few years, DOE has a horrendous record in protecting the worker and public safety, and in meeting environmental standards.**
  
- \*\* Many commercial incinerators around the nation have been designated as "Superfund" sites--places of extreme environmental contamination selected by EPA for special clean-up projects. Communities surrounding such sites have markedly higher incidences of cancer, birth defects and other major illnesses.**

**As the Governing Authorities for each of our communities, we cannot condone the continual incineration of any radioactive and hazardous wastes adjacent to our reservations because of the possible threat of contamination.**

**Additionally, the Eight Northern Pueblo Governors oppose the long term storage of any radioactive and hazardous waste on or near the Northern Pueblo reservations.**

**The Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, therefore feel that many of these questions which we have addressed above have yet to be answered; additionally, because of the permanent long term effects of whatever is decided, we feel that questions we have posed should be answered to our satisfaction, perhaps with guarantees that we would suffer no ill effects. Until we are satisfied with the answers, the Governors of the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos hereby adamantly oppose the LANL application to incinerate anykind of radioactive or hazardous waste.**

**We recommend that the State of New Mexico not approve LANL's application.**



## **EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLOS COUNCIL**

P.O. Box 969  
San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico 87566  
(505) 852-4265

### **9-21 RESOLUTION 89**

**WHEREAS,** the ENIPC is an Inter-tribal consortia comprised of the Eight Northern Pueblos of Taos, Picuris, San Juan, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Nambe, Pojoaque and Tesuque;

**WHEREAS,** the Eight Northern Indian Pueblo people have traditionally, historically and socially maintained their forefather's ways and means of survival into the 1980's;

**WHEREAS,** the Eight Northern Indian Pueblo people have many concerns about the Los Alamos National Laboratory's plan to begin regular incineration of "mid-level" radioactive and hazardous waste and have submitted a **DRAFT POSITION PAPER.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,** the Governing Board of Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council hereby adopts the **POSITION PAPER** as their Official Statement and hereby adamantly oppose the LANL application to incinerate anykind of radioactive or hazardous waste.

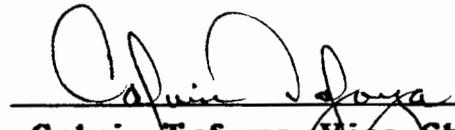
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** we recommend that the State of New Mexico not approve LANL's application.

**CERTIFICATION**

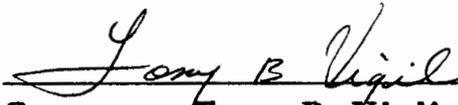
**We certify that this resolution was considered and adopted at a regular Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council Meeting held on September 13, 1989 and that the vote was 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent.**



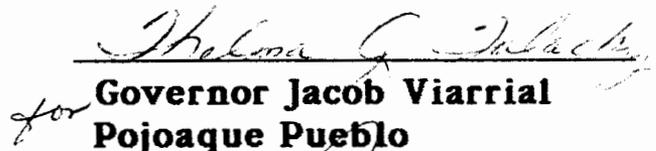
**Charles Dorame, Chairman  
Tesuque Pueblo**



**Calvin Tafoya, Vice-Chairman  
Santa Clara Pueblo**



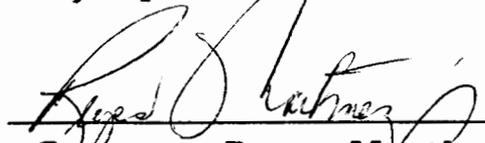
**Governor Tony B. Vigil  
Nambe Pueblo**

  
for

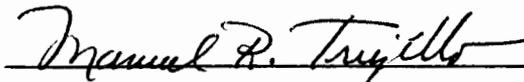
**Governor Jacob Viarrial  
Pojoaque Pueblo**

**ABSENT**

**Governor Ernesto C. Luhan  
Taos Pueblo**



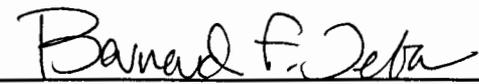
**Governor Reyes Martinez  
Picuris Pueblo**



**Governor Manuel R. Trujillo  
San Juan Pueblo**



**Governor Dennis P. Martinez  
San Ildefonso Pueblo**

**ATTEST:** 

**Bernard F. Teba, Executive Director  
ENIPC**