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Barbara Hoditschek, RCRA Permits Program Manager
State of New Mexico, Environment Department
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
2044 Galisteo, Santa Fe, NM 87502

Re: Controlled Air Incinerator (CAI)

Dear Ms. Hoditschek:

I believe that the State of New Mexico Environment Department does not have sufficient confidence in the Los Alamos National Laboratory. As far as I am concerned, the Laboratory wrote the book on hazardous and radioactive materials. Everyone else, including your department, DOE and the federal investigators, are all rookies compared with the trial and error education that these people have received through their work. The Laboratory should be teaching you, as well as the other organizations, what it is all about. Nuclear Research and Development is absolutely necessary like pinto beans, some by products may be unpleasant and embarrassing but rectifiable.

We have spent millions of dollars unnecessarily on hazardous and radioactive materials because of the testing and influx of all of the agencies involved in these responsibilities. Example: Two gas tanks on my commercial property would have cost me \$20,000.00 to remove and to aerate contaminated hydrocarbon materials. But through the regulations and testing, and the manpower it took to send the multitude of 55 gallon drums full of soil elsewhere with new soil coming in, over a year later and an estimated million dollars plus of cost to the DOE, it was ridiculous and criminal to blow that kind of money. Also, we had about 67 people involved in a small confined area, all with hard hats, and only two people were doing the digging. This was because of all of these organizations involved. Simplification is necessary. The Lab should have the lead in any of these endeavors, including the CAI, without mickey mouse interference of the rest of the populous and/or organizations that know not that they know not.

Full appreciation and confidence must be given to the Los Alamos National Laboratory who wrote the book on hazardous and radioactive materials, and extremely necessary Nuclear Research.

Sincerely,


Elmo Cde Baca

p.s. The optimum goal is to save time and money.

