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*James Blayze*  
LANL  
MBA C

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 10, 2007

Dr. Michael Anastasio, Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663  
Los Alamos, NM 87545



Dear Director Anastasio:

We are writing you on the very urgent matter of Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) compliance with a Consent Order between the Department of Energy and the New Mexico Environment Department. We understand that the laboratory has missed a required deadline to complete the drilling of the last four of the forty bore holes intended to characterize the material contained within this legacy disposal site. While we are aware the laboratory had worker and health safety concerns with drilling these final four holes, we are disappointed that addressing these concerns was not accounted for in LANL's timeline to meet the milestones in the Consent Order.

Given the delays to date in meeting these milestones, we welcome the positive news that you have shared with our offices: that this required drilling will commence late this month and conclude by the end of February, with results submitted to NMED in mid-April. We appreciate that you have made a personal commitment that you will work to meet this timetable. The results will help address very legitimate health and safety concerns of the residents in the communities surrounding Los Alamos.

Finally, we would like to be kept informed as the drilling progresses and to be briefed as soon as the results of the drilling are available.

Thank you for your serious attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Jeff Bingaman*  
Jeff Bingaman  
U.S. Senator

*Pete V. Domenici*  
Pete V. Domenici  
U.S. Senator

cc: Governor Bill Richardson  
Secretary Ron Curry, NMED  
Deputy Energy Secretary Clay Sell

