



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

*Jim S. [unclear]
 Barbara [unclear]
 G. [unclear]
 To [unclear]*

FEB 12 1996

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



RECEIVED

FEB 13 1996

NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Kelly:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-0823) for the Transuranic (TRU) Waste Drum Staging Building at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) was approved and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued by the Department of Energy (DOE) Area Manager on February 12, 1996. On January 18, 1996, DOE provided the pre-decisional draft 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. One comment letter was received by DOE on the pre-decisional draft EA and was supportive of the proposed action. Additionally, several corrections were made to address typographical errors found in the text.

The Final EA analyzes the DOE proposal to stage sealed containers of TRU and TRU mixed waste in a support building at the Plutonium Facility (Technical Area 55). The proposed action is to convert an existing support structure (Building 185), a prefabricated metal building on a concrete foundation, and operate it as a temporary staging facility for sealed containers of TRU and TRU mixed waste. The proposed action would eliminate crowded conditions in the PF-4 basement. Conversion of Building 185 would generate small quantities (5 cubic meters or 150 cubic feet) of construction debris, which would be disposed of at the Los Alamos County Landfill. Radiation doses to PF-4 workers involved with staging would be essentially the same as the no-action alternative, which is to continue to stage drums in the basement of Building PF-4. No doses to the public would be expected from routine operations.

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. I have included a copy of the Final EA by cover of this letter for your information.

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Ed Kelly

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If you have any questions, 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,



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

LAAMEP:7EW-045

Enclosure

1. Lots Discussed
2. I never saw project decisional draft until
3. First thing I knew about it was 3 weeks ago Tom started talking as if it was a done deal.
Part A in copy
No Part B - status OB PD

This letter concerning DOE/EA-0823 has been sent to the following stakeholders:

**Governor Joseph C. Quintana
Pueblo of Cochiti
P. O. Box 70
Cochiti Pueblo, NM 87072**

**Governor Randolph Padilla
Pueblo of Jemez
P. O. Box 100
Jemez Pueblo, NM 87024**

**Governor Gilbert Tafoya
Pueblo of Santa Clara
P. O. Box 580
Española, NM 87532**

**Governor Elmer Torres
Pueblo of San Ildefonso
Route 5, Box 315-A
Santa Fe, NM 87501**

**Mr. Ed Kelly, Director
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