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

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NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Peter Maggiore, Secretary  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Mr. Maggiore:

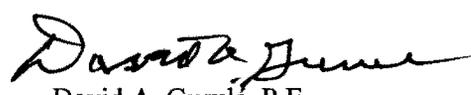
Carl

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration, is considering a proposal to construct and operate a new emergency operations center (EOC) at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) within Technical Area 69 (TA-69). This new facility would be co-occupied by employees of the University of California, as LANL's current management and operations contractor, and the County of Los Alamos on a 24-hour-a-day basis. The facility would have dedicated space for housing the staff of other federal, state, and local government agencies and other entities in the case of an emergency situation at LANL. Additionally, in the event of an emergency within the nearby Pajarito Plateau area outside of LANL's boundaries, the EOC would be available for use by the administrating agency(s) or involved entity(s) even if land and facilities administered by DOE were not involved in the emergency event. Parking spaces would also be constructed as a part of this proposed action, and utilities would have to be brought to the construction site from nearby areas. A small amount of wildlife habitat would be lost to construct this facility.

We invite you or your designated representative to attend a meeting hosted by the DOE Los Alamos Area Office (LAAO) for the purpose of discussing the proposed construction and operation of this facility and how your agency or entity could use the facility, and also to visit the existing LANL EOC and the proposed construction site of the new EOC at LANL. The meeting will be held on April 5, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We will meet at the LAAO Conference Room 114, located at 528 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Alamos, New Mexico, and from there we will be bused over to the LANL EOC sites. Please call Elizabeth Withers, LAAO NEPA Compliance Officer, at (505) 667-8690 to confirm your attendance so that adequate transportation will be available. We regret that foreign national individuals cannot be accommodated at this meeting. Additionally, this letter serves as an invitation to your agency to participate in the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) for this proposal in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

If you have any questions or need further information, please call Ms. Withers at the above listed number or Mr. Lloyd Smith, the EA Document Manager, at (505) 667-4235.

Sincerely,



David A. Gurulé, P.E.  
Area Manager

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