



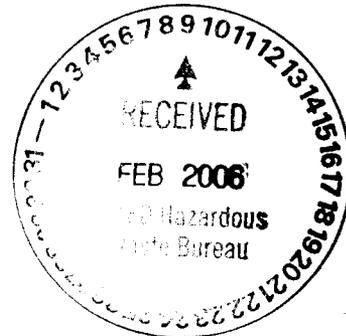
ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE

The Catholic Center

Ecology Ministry, Social Justice Office

February 6, 2006

Mr. John Kieling, Program Manager
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 Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303



Ref: Sandia National Laboratories – MWL CMI Work Plan

I write out of an ethical concern for the environment, especially the water, and people of New Mexico. I believe that the Sandia Fate and Transport Model for Mixed Waste Landfill fails to adequately protect the environment and people. The information I have read states that Sandia's sampling shows that such creatures as deer mice and vegetation are contaminated with low levels of tritium and radon and that other contaminants are also present. In addition, the plan does not appear to have adequate safe guards for human and other intrusions.

However, of greatest concern is the lack of the model to conduct a proper risk assessment and finally the model fails to adequately consider the deterioration of waste containers. The term "waste containers" refers to metal 55-gallon drums, plastic bags, bottles, and crates – anything that the waste materials were placed in and then dumped. These so-called "containers" made of various substances *will deteriorate* over time. The only type of material that Sandia considered in its model considered was radium 226 containers they determined would deteriorate in 1,000 years. Furthermore, the Hearing Officer stated in her decision that the F & T model should address the deterioration of containers buried in the landfill. Her intention was for Sandia to examine not one, but the various waste types that were buried in a variety of containers.

The health and future of New Mexico is a grave moral concern and the actions of this model should be held to the scrutiny of ethics. Of particular concern is our precious water supply, for which we have a particular responsibility to the future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

Peace and good,

Jr. Joan Brown, osf

Joan Brown,osf
 Ecology Ministry