Mr. John E. Keiling, Program Manager  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508-6303

Reference: Sandia National Laboratories – MWL Soil-Vapor SAP

Date: 3/5/2007

Dear Mr. Keiling,

I would like to comment on the NMED’s decision to put SNL’s Soil Gas Sampling Plan out for public review.

First, I must ask a simple question. In public Notice 07-01, it states: “The Secretary also directed that the public be given the opportunity to comment on all major documents regarding the MWL prior to any final action being taken by the NMED.” What is the definition of “major document” in the notice, so I can determine if it was even necessary for the NMED to submit this document for public comment?

Since 1999, NMED has confused countless instances of minor “public concern” regarding the Mixed Waste Landfill as “major concerns”. Given this situation, no final decisions seem to be forthcoming in the foreseeable future. My husband and I operated a construction business here in Albuquerque for several decades. We could never have survived if we could not differentiate minor concerns from major ones. This soil-vapor SAP clearly seems to me to be a minor issue, Why does the NMED see fit to subject this Plan to public comment?

NMED received SNL’s original application for “No Further Action” in September of 1996. Eleven years later, little has changed with respect to the technical facts regarding the MWL, yet no decision seems forthcoming. Further delays will only result in additional costs, waste taxpayers moneys and are not in the public’s best interest. In all of these years, there never been a single substantive argument that would justify any alternative other than what has been proposed by Sandia. Instead, decisions continue to be referred to “public forums” for consensus, which will never come.

I encourage the NMED to approve the SAP as submitted and encourage the immediate start of construction of the vegetative cover.

Sincerely,

Jeanne House  
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