Mr. McCoy:

The Secretary of the Environment Department is not granting an extension to the public comment period on the Sandia National Laboratories draft Hazardous Waste Permit and the proposal for Corrective Action Complete determinations for 24 Solid Waste Management Units/Areas of Concern (draft Permit and proposed CACs). The initial comment period on the draft Permit and CACs began on September 17, 2012 and was scheduled to end on November 16, 2012. Requests for extending the comment period were received by the Environment Department and the Secretary granted an extension of an additional 90 days until February 14, 2013. Therefore the public comment period on the draft Permit and proposed CACs has totaled 150 days. The Secretary believes the time provided for public comment has been adequate. The Hazardous Waste Bureau will now review all comments received during the public comment period.

The Environment Department also acknowledges receiving multiple requests to hold a public hearing on the draft Permit and CACs. The Hazardous Waste Bureau will follow the Hazardous Waste Management Regulations at 20.4.1.901.A(4) stating, “[i]f the secretary issues a draft permit, and a timely written notice of opposition to the draft permit and a request for a public hearing is received, the department, acting in conjunction with the applicant, will respond to the request in an attempt to resolve the issues giving rise to the opposition. If such issues are resolved to the satisfaction of the opponent, the opponent may withdraw the request for a public hearing.” If all issues cannot be resolved, the Department will hold a public hearing in this matter.

Thank you,
John Kieling

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