



MWL



ENTERED

**Department of Energy**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
**Sandia Field Office**  
**P.O. Box 5400**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87185**



**JUL 11 2019**

Dr. Kerry J. Howe, Ph.D, P.E.  
Chair, Water Protection Advisory Board  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103-0568

Subject: Environmental Restoration Activities at Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico

Dear Dr. Howe and Fellow Board Members:

Thank you for your continued interest in the environmental restoration activities at Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico. The New Mexico Environment Department, Hazardous Waste Bureau's (NMED-HWB) May 2005 Final Order established a public process specific to the Mixed Waste Landfill (MWL) Five-Year Reports, and states, "*NMED shall provide a process whereby members of the public may comment on the report and its conclusions and shall respond to those comments in its final approval of the report.*" The NMED-HWB, as our regulatory body, is responsible for the Five-Year Report public process and its final approval. We appreciate your concern and interest in the MWL, however, it would not be appropriate to provide a briefing outside the defined regulatory process of NMED. Consequently, we respectfully decline your request.

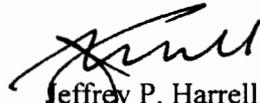
As documented in the Five-Year Report, and communicated to your staff in March, there are no issues related to surface water or groundwater at the MWL. The Five-Year Report is not a decision document regarding future actions at the MWL; it presents and compiles the annually-collected and publicly-available monitoring and inspection data, provides an evaluation of remedy performance, and updates the 2003 feasibility analysis for MWL excavation.

Site conditions at the MWL continue to be protective of human health and the environment based on multi-media monitoring results, which are consistent with historical data. There are no indications of increased risk to site workers or the public, and the Evapotranspirative Cover is in good condition and performing as designed. The inventory and many other issues were considered in two public hearings associated with the MWL corrective action process that was completed in March 2016. The ongoing multi-media monitoring program and trigger level process defined in the MWL Long-Term Monitoring and Maintenance Plan provide the safeguards to ensure site conditions remain protective.

We appreciate your interest in the report and encourage your board members and any concerned citizens to participate in the NMED public comment process.

If you have questions contact David Rast of our staff at (505) 845-5349.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey P. Harrell  
Manager

cc:

John Kieling, NMED  
Christy Leigh SNL/NM  
Susan Collins, SNL/NM  
Amy Blumberg, SNL/NM  
Michael Mitchell, SNL/NM  
Cynthia Wimberly, SFO/Legal  
William Wechsler, SFO/ENG  
Susan Lacy, SFO/ENG  
David Rast, SFO/ENG  
NNSA-2019-002535