

Kieling, John, NMENV

From: April Mondragon [etatinum@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 9:31 PM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: RE: Public Comment

Dear Mr. Keiling,

I am opposed to poorly planned and wasteful spending on human activities that are obsolete and harmful to ALL LIFE on this planet. Please see the article below about LANL "plans".

I will state again, it is time that LANL be funded to CLEAN UP the toxic mess that already exists, and give the great scientific minds at LANL NEW jobs of developing affordable clean energy.

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April Mondragon
Live Peace

- **LANL Plans New Transuranic Facility for Nuclear Weapons Manufacturing Waste**

A public meeting was held this week about the plans of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to construct a new waste facility at Technical Area 63 for plutonium-contaminated transuranic waste from manufacturing nuclear weapons. The meeting was held in the historic Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos and focused on the LANL request to modify the 2010 New Mexico Environment Department permit for hazardous waste operations.

Most of the waste would be generated at facilities close to TA-63, including the Plutonium Facility at TA-55, the old Chemistry and Metallurgy Research building at TA-3, and the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility at TA-50. There was no mention of the estimated 4,400 cubic yards of transuranic waste that would be generated by the proposed \$6 billion Nuclear Facility, part of the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project, which is planned to operate for 50 years, beginning in 2023.

The plan is to construct five metal buildings for storage of 1,240 55-gallon drums, or drum equivalents, of waste on a six-acre site.

Planned construction would begin in 2013 and be completed in 2014. Current waste storage is located at Area G, which is scheduled to be closed by December 29, 2015 under the Consent Order. After that, all newly-generated transuranic waste would be sent to the proposed Transuranic Waste Facility.

The waste would be characterized during a twice-yearly campaign for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), the nation's only disposal site for transuranic waste. WIPP is scheduled to close by about 2030, and more than 90 percent of the waste to be disposed is from sites around the country.

It is unclear what will happen to the transuranic waste in 2030, after WIPP closes. When the question was raised at this week's meeting, the public was told that it was beyond the scope of the meeting and no response was given. It is an essential question that must be answered before a \$70 to \$120 million investment is made for a facility that may have to store all the waste for decades or longer.

The proposal is on a fast track. LANL submitted their request to the Environment Department as a Class 2 modification of the hazardous waste permit, which provides for a 60-day public comment period, but no public hearing. In contrast, CCNS and others are arguing that it is a major permit modification and meets the Class 3 standards, which provides for more public participation, including the opportunity to request a public hearing.

To provide your comments about the proposal, please email John Kieling, Acting Bureau Chief of the New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau, at john.kieling@state.nm.us.