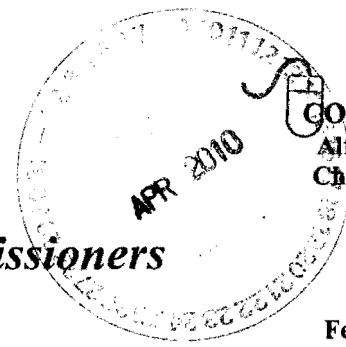


*Rio Arriba*  
**Board of County Commissioners**



**ENTERED**  
GOVERNMENT SERVICES  
Alfredo L. Montoya  
Chairman, District 2

Elias Coriz  
District 1

Felipe D. Martinez  
District 3

**COUNTY MANAGER**  
Lorenzo J. Valdez

March 29, 2010

Mr. Ron Curry  
New Mexico Environmental  
PO Box 5469  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469

Secretary Curry:

Recently the New Mexico Environment Department denied a portion of a Los Alamos National Laboratory hazardous waste permit (EPA ID No. NM0890010515). The Rio Arriba County Commission disagrees with the partial denial of the permit and urges the Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department to grant the complete hazardous waste permit for a full 10-year extension.

At issue is the necessity of open burning of residues from non-nuclear counterterrorism and national security research. Without this capability, the impact to the security and safety of our armed forces and nation in general will be felt. The Laboratory must be able to continue its research on detecting explosives, defeating improvised bombs, and creating stronger armor. These unique research capabilities exist only at Los Alamos and thus should be protected for the good of the nation.

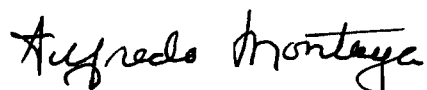
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The Commission finds no reasonable rationale base on health, safety, or environmental concern has been presented by the New Mexico Environment Department or any other party for denial of the Los Alamos permit for open burning. As a close neighbor of the Laboratory, we feel that open burning is safer than transporting unstable, explosive wastes through our communities.

Protecting the public's health and safety is best assured by approving the referenced permit that includes open burning permission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alfredo L. Montoya". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alfredo L. Montoya  
Commission Chairman