

Kieling, John, NMENV

From: Gregory Buntain [buntain@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2011 10:16 PM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: Los Alamos National Laboratory Open Detonation for Explosives Disposal

Dear Sir,

I am writing to encourage NMED to grant permanent permits for open detonation of explosives as a means for disposing of excess explosive waste.

I am a PhD chemist who worked in the explosives area for about 15 years and have a good understanding of explosive chemistry and reaction products. Explosives, by their nature, tend to be energy balanced (e.g., they contain both fuel and oxidizer within the same material in amounts that are, or nearly are, balanced in terms of reactants needed to form detonation products). Thus, when an explosive detonates the products are almost exclusively carbon dioxide, nitrogen and water. I guarantee that when you drive to work each day your car is emitting more hazardous chemicals than are released by detonating 60 pounds of high explosive (a typical shot size).

I hope that science, rather than politics and fear will guide this decision. The data to make this decision are available and will substantiate my case. Not granting these permits will essentially drive Los Alamos out of this business, removing its contribution to national defense and Homeland security. That would be foolish and unjustified.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Buntain
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Los Alamos, NM 87544