



Kieling, John, NMENV

From: Chuck Hathcock [menfozz@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 4:08 PM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: Open Burning Permit at LANL -- Public Comment

Dear Mr. Kieling,

I'm writing in regards to the Los Alamos National Laboratory RCRA permit, specifically the NMED's proposal to disallow open burning. The main reason according to the fact sheet on your website is due to eco-risk modeling that showed elevated risk to earthworms and deer mice.

There are Mexican spotted owls that are federally protected nearby, and they are not at risk, but you're prepared to stop millions of dollars of money coming into New Mexico and cause the loss of possibly hundreds of well paid positions over two species that have no legal protections? The deer mouse and the earthworm are ubiquitous across the landscape from coast to coast here in the USA. Hundreds, possibly thousands of deer mice are routinely trapped annually by LANL pest control in buildings around the site. The deer mouse is also the primary carrier of the "sin nombre" virus which causes hantavirus in humans, a lethal zoonotic disease.

Why would you choose to disallow this permit for protecting a non-listed species that is certainly not in trouble? I am a strong environmentalist and I work in the field of ecology and I think the NMED is picking the wrong fight. You are hurting the New Mexico economy for the wrong reason. I am asking that you allow the open burning to continue and choose more important fights.

If you are looking for a bigger bang for your buck with protecting New Mexico, why don't you travel along the Rio Grande in Española and look at all of the businesses with various waste streams right into the river itself or into its floodplain where there are various federally protected species being impacted, not to mention the water supply for our citizens. Or better yet, why don't you drive around southeastern New Mexico and see how many of the thousands of oil wells are leaking and not up to standards? I have been there and the numbers are staggering. Have you ever been to Loco Hills NM? I suggest that you check it out.

Los Alamos National Laboratory is an industrial site and the open burning is well within industrial site standards.

Thanks for your time,

Chuck Hathcock
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