

**Kieling, John, NMENV**

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**From:** David Moore [dsmoore47@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2010 2:46 PM  
**To:** Kieling, John, NMENV  
**Subject:** Comments on EPA ID #: NM0890010515 New Mexico ID #: 2390

Dear Mr. Kieling,

As a private citizen living in Eldorado south of Santa Fe, I would like to express my opinion regarding the intended denial of the permit for Open Burn Units TA 16-388 and Ta 16-399 as well as the intent to approve closure plans for said units.

I know that Los Alamos National Laboratory is extensively involved in US counter-terrorism and national security missions whose continuation depends on a proper explosives disposal path. Burning of explosives wastes at the Open Burn Units on LANL property is far safer than transporting unsafe material on public roads for treatment elsewhere. None of the waste originates from manufacture of nuclear weapons, but rather from experiments on improvised explosive device countermeasures and explosives detection enhancements for aviation security and battlefield application, both of which are necessary to keep both aviation passengers and soldiers safe from terrorists and insurgents. Experiments are also to develop methods to defeat buried mines or other explosives (e.g., roadside bombs).

As a private citizen who appreciates the efforts of Los Alamos scientists to help provide our soldiers in theater with the ability to find and render safe IEDs intended to kill or maim them, or to provide DHS and TSA with enhanced capabilities to allow air passengers safe and secure passage from home to destination and back, I would appreciate your reconsideration of the need for the open burn units. They are not an environmental hazard to the citizens of northern New Mexico, but rather provide a service critical for the continuation of such vital national security missions. I would hate to blame the next soldier's death or the next airplane bombing on a misguided New Mexico effort to close the open burn units at Los Alamos, but that would be the ultimate effect.

Sincerely yours,

David S. Moore  
18 Dulce Road,  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
505-466-4858

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