

Kieling, John, NMENV

From: Diana Baker [dianabaker105@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 9:22 AM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: LANL Plans for a New Transuranic Waste Facility

Surely you are aware of the latest proposal re. subject waste at LANL, and surely you understand the dangers of this storage on the Parjarito Plateau, particularly in light of recent earthquake activity in the region. 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. PLEASE ASSURE THAT THIS PUBLIC HEARING IS HELD. LANL must be held accountable to the people of Northern New Mexico who would suffer the disastrous results of any dispersal of this transuranic waste.**

I would appreciate hearing how you plan to deal with this matter.