

Kieling, John, NMENV



From: Joe Wexler [joewexler178@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 3:55 PM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: Re: A few days left: Please take 30 seconds & send new letter regarding ground water monitoring at Los Alamos

From: Lesley Weinstock <lesleyweinstock@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sat, May 1, 2010 1:12:06 PM
Subject: A few days left: Please take 30 seconds & send new letter regarding ground water monitoring at Los Alamos

(sent to entire AVAT list)

Subject: Re: Letter to Mr Kieling re lack of groundwater protection

Dear Friends:

Attached are the GW fact sheet in pdf and a GW comment document in word so that folks can add or subtract as needed. Thanks for efforts! Please send before May 7, 2010.

Best,
Lesley

Date: _May 5, 2010

John E. Kieling, Program Manager
Hazardous Waste Bureau - New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
E-mail: john.kieling@state.nm.us

Re: Lack of Groundwater Protection Requirements in Proposed Hazardous Waste Permit for Los Alamos National Laboratory

Dear Mr. Kieling:

I provide the following public comments about the lack of groundwater protection requirements in the proposed Hazardous Waste Permit for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated the Española Basin as a sole source aquifer, meaning that the Española Basin is the sole drinking water source for the area between the Jemez and Sangre de Cristo Mountains , running from Tres Piedras, to the north, to almost Galisteo, to the south.

Since operations began in 1943, LANL has buried over 21 million cubic feet of radioactive, hazardous and toxic wastes in unlined pits, trenches and shafts dug into the volcanic tuff. The LANL groundwater monitoring network has been under development since 1998 and has yet to provide reliable and representative samples of groundwater from the regional aquifer.

I am particularly concerned about the lack of detection and compliance groundwater



monitoring for the "regulated units," Areas G, H and L, at Technical Area 54 (TA-54). I quote the March 19, 2010 written testimony by James Bearzi, Bureau Chief of the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau:

"... groundwater contamination has already been detected beneath the regulated units at TA-54" p. 62.

Groundwater beneath LANL discharges to the springs at the Rio Grande . Albuquerque residents are already drinking water from the Rio Grande and Santa Fe residents will begin next spring.

It is time to get back to basics. NMED must require LANL to install wells drilled only with air. These wells must be able to detect contamination and provide the necessary information in order to implement corrective action, or "cleanup," in an efficient and cost effective manner. Already too much taxpayer money has been wasted drilling defective wells, collecting and analyzing samples from defective wells and reporting data to the public that is unreliable.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Name: Joseph Wexler

Address: 610 Ridge Place NE
Albuquerque, NM. 87106

<http://www.abqjournal.com/north/272352167528north04-27-10.htm>

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Critics Speak Out at Hearing on Lab

By John Fleck
Journal Staff Writer

State regulators got a downstream perspective Monday on Los Alamos National Laboratory's environmental problems during an Albuquerque hearing on the lab's hazardous waste operations.

"I'm very concerned about our groundwater and our surface water and our air," said Lesley Weinstock of the Agua es Vida Action Team, an organization that works on water quality issues.

Weinstock's comments came during a daylong state Environment Department hearing on new hazardous waste operating rules for the northern New Mexico nuclear weapons research lab.

Weinstock was one of a number of people who turned out at the hearing to support the Environment Department's efforts to prohibit the lab from disposing of hazardous explosive wastes by burning them.

Lab officials say the practice is safe and is critical to their ability to do national security work for the Pentagon.

The rules cover a wide range of issues, but most of the attention in hearings over the last month has focused on open burning, groundwater monitoring, and a proposed state requirement that the lab put up a financial bond to assure long-term environmental cleanup.

5/5/2010

Lab critics speaking at Monday's hearing noted that Albuquerque is located downstream from Los Alamos and gets its drinking water from the Rio Grande, which flows past the lab on its way to the city's drinking water system.

The hearing was the last scheduled day for the public to comment on the rules. A final decision from the Environment Department is expected at the end of the year.

Thank you for all your work to: Joni Arends, Executive Director
 Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
 107 Cienega Street
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
 Tel (505) 986-1973
 Fax (505) 986-0997
www.nuclearactive.org <<http://www.nuclearactive.org>>

Here are Lesley's 2nd set of public comments during the 4/26/10 hearings:

Public Comments Supporting NMED's Denial of LANL's Permit for the Open Air Burning of Hazardous Waste

by Lesley Weinstock

My name is Lesley Weinstock. I am wearing 3 hats, one as a citizen, one as coordinator of Agua es Vida Action Team (AVAT), a citizen watchdog group concerned about emerging contaminants in Albuquerque's tap water, since it is now coming from the Rio Grande, and one as a Physician's Assistant (PA). I have practiced medicine since 1974. As coordinator of AVAT, I have lab reports from the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA), of the treated river water, that is now in our tap water. These reports show that our tap water contains Plutonium, Americium, Radium & Tritium, among many other radionuclides and chemicals. The Water Authority believes that these toxins in the river are coming from Los Alamos. Since I live down river and am environmentally sensitive, I am very concerned about these toxic chemicals. I'd like to see NMED be more timely and diligent and deny Los Alamos National Lab (LANL) the permit to continue burning hazardous waste in the open air. This is because LANL has been a blatant polluter of our air, water and earth. Fining LANL does not seem to be effective, per their neglect of environmental stewardship. Denying the permit is one way to protect us.

Wearing my personal and PA hats, I also support what Richard Moore said earlier today regarding environmental justice and the need for a physical repository.

Poor people cannot afford to move out of toxic environments or buy expensive air and water filters. In fact, none of us should have to buy these filters. As a health care provider, I am very concerned about public health and the effect of these industrial chemicals on our health.

As you may know, there is an epidemic of cancer and diseases such as asthma and other immune system disorders. Real prevention of disease involves not producing these toxic chemicals in the first place, however, if they do exist, they need to be safely and carefully contained. The precautionary principle should be applied.

Thank you for your consideration.

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