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From: Dianne W. Wilburn [mailto:dwwilburn@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 8:14 PM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: LANL Permit

Dear Mr. Kieling,

I am writing to support the retention of open burning as part of the LANL hazardous waste permit. Removal of the Open Burning Part 6 is not justified. Open burning is important for our national security, military effectiveness, safety and protection of human health and the environment. There seems to be confusion that open burning is part of the nuclear weapons program. Open burning is related to explosives research. The permit for the open burn units was requested to destroy reactive high explosives from research activities. That research is related to homeland security, terrorism prevention, etc. Due to the nature of these materials, it is often not safe to transport them. Waste sent to these sites is reviewed and sent off site if possible. In other words, the waste treated by open burning is minimized as much as possible. Previous drafts of the permit contained provisions for soil sampling with a caveat that the permit could be withdrawn if soil samples indicated an increase in contaminants. Additionally, these sites will be subject to RCRA closure requirements. In summary, LANL should be permitted for these operations for national security and safety with the caveat for RCRA closure with the cessation of operations.

Sincerely,

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