

**Kieling, John, NMENV**

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**From:** Michael Fazio [mvfazio@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2010 10:15 PM  
**To:** Kieling, John, NMENV  
**Subject:** Approve "Open Burn" for Los Alamos



Dear Mr. Kieling,

I strongly support the inclusion of the "Open Burn" capability for Los Alamos National Laboratory in the current NMED hazardous waste permit under discussion.

LANL has world-class expertise in understanding and defeating explosive threats that place our nation at risk. An open burn permit is essential in order to carry out critical national security and counter-terrorism missions. These missions at risk include:

-Developing countermeasures against improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that are killing and maiming our soldiers on almost a daily basis in Iraq and Afghanistan,

-Explosives detection to help prevent situations like the Christmas bomber where explosives are hidden under clothing

-Methods to defeat buried mines and other explosives that kill military and civilians alike.

-In addition, explosives and energetic materials, provide the initial energy that powers United States' nuclear deterrence and also non-nuclear strike capabilities.

I have been a strong environmentalist for the past 40 years and feel very strongly about protecting the environment for future generations.

However I also believe that national security is critically important and that the two must be balanced. The work being done at Los Alamos is helping our soldiers survive and in the longer term will help ensure that some day we won't have IEDs being detonated along I-25 or in our US cities. I also want to be confident that my children, now in their twenties, can travel abroad without the risk of their plane being brought down by a terrorist who could have been stopped if only we had "done our homework" as a nation and here in New Mexico.

This choice to permit "open burn" should be a no-brainer. \*I strongly support "open burn" and urge you to decide in favor of it.

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