



Kieling, John, NMENV

From: peter sheehey [psheehey@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 3:58 PM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: NMED/LANL Hearing Statement

Attachments: SheeheyPressRelease4-13-2010rev.pdf; ATT3209405.txt

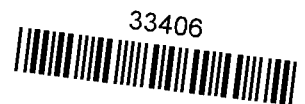


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Mr. Kieling:

Attached is a statement I made today at the New Mexico Environment Department hearing at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo on the LANL Hazardous Waste Permit renewal. Call me if you have any questions (home 662-3426, cell 231-1155). Thank you.

Pete Sheehey



**Press Release: CANDIDATE SHEEHEY SPEAKS OUT IN FAVOR OF LANL
HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT**

**Pete Sheehey, candidate for Democratic Party nomination for New Mexico House of
Representatives, District 43**

PO Box 54, Los Alamos, NM 87544

April 13, 2010

Pete Sheehey, candidate for the Democratic nomination for New Mexico House of Representatives, District 43, made a statement Tuesday, April 13 at the New Mexico Environment Department Public Hearing held at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo on the Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. Sheehey stated:

“My name is Peter Sheehey. I live in Los Alamos and have worked as a scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) since 1986. I am not a spokesman for the Lab; this is a statement of my own personal knowledge and opinion. The work done for our national security at LANL over the past 65 years has resulted in undeniable damage to the environment of Los Alamos and surrounding areas, and this damage must be repaired. As a citizen of New Mexico and a candidate for New Mexico House of Representatives, District 43, I strongly support the New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) responsibility to regulate the cleanup of past environmental damage, and to regulate present operations at LANL involving hazardous waste.

“As a citizen of the United States and a scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, I also support the work done there for our national security. Some of this work involves research into how to deal with emergency situations involving high explosives and high explosive residues, which can be extremely hazardous. Experts at LANL provide training to military personnel and first responders who have to deal with such situations. The safest way to dispose of the hazardous material produced in this research and training is to move it as little as possible and then burn it in the open with high temperature burners. NMED and LANL agree that this procedure produces almost no air pollution or additional health risk to humans, and little other environmental impact.

“The work at LANL that requires open burning can save the lives of people who are asked to deal with hazardous situations. One of my duties is emergency response involving high explosives. It would be irresponsible for NMED to place me and my fellow responders, military and civilian, at greater risk by denying the Lab permission to dispose of such waste in the safest and cleanest possible way. LANL personnel, such as myself, are ready and willing to do this work. The state of New Mexico should not tell the nation to find another place to perform this important mission.

“I urge the NMED to allow continued controlled open burning of the wastes produced in this work at LANL. The Lab has agreed to appropriate monitoring of any potential environmental impacts. Thank you.”