

Kieling, John, NMENV

From: Holly Benson [hollywheelerbenson@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 12:31 PM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Cc: kerrybenson@yahoo.com
Subject: Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Hearing

John Kieling
New Mexico Environment Department
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Dear Mr. Kieling,

I am submitting comments to the Hearing Administrator for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Hearing.

I am writing as a private citizen and resident of Los Alamos County. I have spent the last twenty years as an environment scientist specializing in environmental compliance. I have worked enforcing hazardous waste management regulatory requirements for the State of Arizona and have provided compliance guidance to LANL relative to hazardous and solid waste management and stormwater regulatory requirements. It is my opinion that there is no other entity that is required to do more monitoring of air, surface water, stormwater, groundwater, soil, biota, and animals than LANL does in the entire United States.. Modeling of contaminants that may be generated from open burning of ignitable or reactive hazardous waste does not show harm to human health and the environment (other than to deer mice and earth worms) from this activity. I personally would rather have ignitable or reactive material managed at the LANL burn ground than have this material put into public transit, where it could be subject to an accident.. DOE has strict controls on explosive safety. In addition, the hazardous waste management regulations also strictly control management and treatment of explosive waste. In my opinion, it is not worth potentially endangering the public by transporting explosives through public areas to save deer mice (which have been shown to carry hanta virus in Los Alamos County) and earth worms.

I have lived in and around Los Alamos for 15 years and have not witnessed one incident of open burning operations that negatively affected the surrounding public. In addition, I am very concerned that the denial of open burning operations as part of LANL's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit could contribute to the loss of jobs in Northern New Mexico and negatively affect research and development of identified homeland security issues (like detecting explosives, defeating improvised bombs, and creating stronger armor). Thus, I support the continuance of open burning operations at LANL within the framework of environmental regulations and hope for fair oversight.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Wheeler-Benson
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