

Kieling, John, NMENV

From: Loretta [lalsgurule@cybermesa.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2011 7:16 AM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Cc: lag-2008@hotmail.com
Subject: Hazardous Waste Permit for LANL

Looking at the pros and cons, I'd like to submit my comments FOR the Hazardous Waste Permit for LANL.

It seems that both Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) have reviewed tests performed to determine how the "open burning" releases are affecting the air that we breathe; and, so far, tests have proved that these releases are no more harmful than other contaminants in the air. What is the exact threat to wildlife, public health, and environment, if such tests determine that the releases are within the allowable limits? Prohibiting "open burning" of household trash has produced another problem, overflowing landfills.

If the waste is not treated on-site where LANL personnel are trained to minimize the effects, these contaminants will need to be transported elsewhere exposing the public to unstable explosives or hazardous substances and eliminating training for our soldiers, thus, more casualties. What's to keep the off-site treatment facilities from "openly burning"? New Mexico's concerns are everyone's concerns; no one wants more exposure than necessary to hazardous materials on public roads. It makes sense to perform cleanup at the point of origination.

I do agree that if noncompliance is an issue, LANL should be held responsible, whether it be emissions or contamination of groundwater resources, as everyone else who lives on this earth should be responsible for chemicals, substances, nitrates, etc. But, instead of politically viewing these dangers, we need to give common sense some leeway.

I, for one, was extremely thankful that we had the Fire Protection and Emergency Management, Planning, Preparedness, & Response that we did for the Cerro Grande Fire unlike some comments that have circulated as to their incompetent handling of the situation. Employees returning to work in the Los Alamos area found that everything possible had been done to protect and serve the Laboratory and the surrounding community, which allowed everyone to continue with their operations. Hazardous waste and materials at the Laboratory were not affected during the fire due to the diligent work provided by these entities.

I challenge anyone against this permit to provide a viable solution to any of the issues presented by looking beyond the obvious and consider the pros and cons to everything; one solution will ultimately produce another issue.

Sincerely,
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