



**Kieling, John, NMENV**

**From:** HARRY FLAUGH [hflaugh@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 06, 2010 9:45 AM  
**To:** Kieling, John, NMENV  
**Subject:** Hazardous waste



I am writing to support the LANL request to approve open burning of a very limited amount of high explosive residue from non-nuclear national security programs. Certainly the environmental impact of this open burning is miniscule compared to non-LANL open burning all over New Mexico, or even the incineration of medical wastes.

The real issue here is whether a relatively small group of local anti-LANL activists should be allowed to negatively impact valuable national security programs. Most of these activists are absolutely not interested in environmental impact or any pertinent data for this open burning they routinely seize any possible issue with expressed intent to damage LANL. It should be evident that these programs, and the unrelated nuclear weapons mission as well, have been supported by Congress and a long line of US presidents as important to our country.

There are very limited alternatives for disposal of these unconventional explosives from anti-terrorist work and for decomposing explosives contamination on/in processing equipment. All are very expensive, would likely create much more realistically hazardous waste such as contaminated solvents or acids and might create personnel safety problems. Shipping these materials out-of-state on public highways is not an option for a host of reasons.

When NMED forces absurd and costly measures on LANL it must surely deteriorate relations with NNSA. Since NNSA is a major player in these issues, including LANL funding, it would seem that a sensible, cooperative relationship would benefit all. I very much favor application of common sense!

Certainly most of these programs could be transferred elsewhere, Pantex/Amarillo, TX for instance. Such a transfer would sacrifice the facilities and expertise existing at LANL, increase the cost to the government and reduce LANL funding resulting in fewer jobs in northern NM. However, the people of Amarillo are firm supports of national security programs including the nuclear mission of the Pantex Plant.

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