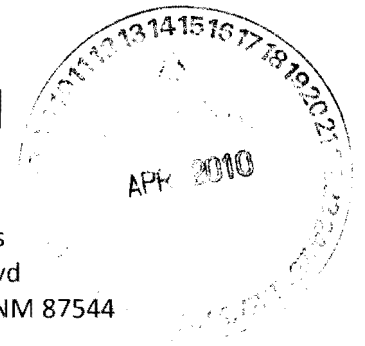




April 12, 2010

Keith Thomas
227 Rover Blvd
Los Alamos, NM 87544



Mr. John E. Kieling, Program Manager
New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Dr. East, Building 1
Santa Fe, Nm 87505

Dear Sir:

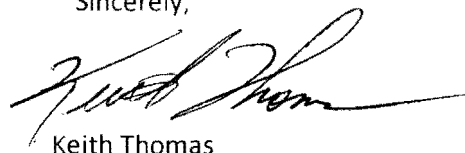
I am writing this letter to express my concern over the fact that the current draft of the NMED hazardous waste permit seeks to exclude open burning of LANL's energetic materials. As I hope that you are aware, LANL burns its excess explosive debris and residue at only a few remote Laboratory locations. Years of data, which has been collected and reviewed by your organization and other experts, has consistently shown this activity poses no human health risk and emits absolutely no hazardous waste.

The proposed alternative to disposing of this explosive debris on-site is transporting to another location for disposal. This seems fundamentally wrong to me for multiple reasons. First, any off-site transportation of energetic materials would expose the general public to either contamination or explosion due to a traffic accident. The potential threat of accidental exposure seems to be much higher than any unproven harm using the current disposal sites. Secondly, the risk for a potential adversary to obtain these energetic materials is greatly increased during in transportation. It would be very simple for a "bad guy" to observe shipments and merely intercept them on the roads, thus allowing the wrong people access to explosive materials. Disposal within the secure boundaries of LANL eliminates this concern. Lastly, by shifting the disposal of these materials to another site only transfer the problem and does not solve it. If you truly believe, against all scientific evidence, that the disposal process is somehow harmful, then why allow it to be done at another location?

Los Alamos National Laboratory has always played a critical role in the national defense of this country. In recent years, the threats to this nation have evolved from Russia and a global superpower, to third-world rogue states and the terrorist organizations they support. LANL has evolved with this changing threat and still continues to be a vital player in our nation's defense. The disposal of energetic materials is a critical support function for this mission. It also involves the jobs of many New Mexicans.

The people who are pushing so hard for this decision against LANL are just that, against LANL. They are misinformed of the real scientific facts and do not consider the overall ramifications of their actions. I urge you to allow LANL to continue to conduct its national mission.

Sincerely,



Keith Thomas

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