



Kieling, John, NMENV

From: Mike Stevens [mfstevens1956@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2010 6:29 PM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: NMED notice of intent to deny HW treatment permit to LANL

Sir,

As a resident of NM, I am disappointed with your agency's issuance of a notice of intent to deny a hazardous waste treatment permit to LANL for burning off explosive scraps and residue that are generated as part of the Lab's important national security work. This is an especially surprising action for our NMED especially in light of the technical facts around the issue. Not only is the burning of explosive residues a much safer action for lab workers, but the alternative, if the laboratory can in fact continue its work, would require these hazardous and unstable wastes to be transported over miles of public roadway, putting many more citizens of NM and neighboring states at potential risk. There does not seem to be a technically-based thought process behind the NMED notice.

Perhaps the most grievous effect of the denial of this permit, especially if lab programs were cancelled, would be the irreparable harm to the lab's emerging and successful support to our nation in the area of counterterrorism, nuclear nonproliferation, support to our warfighters in Iraq and especially Afghanistan, and in the demolition and clean-up of old, Cold War buildings. One little known program which could be negatively affected is a Home Made Explosives class that Los Alamos provides for soldiers being deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Deployed soldiers who have taken this course have stated to the US Military that these courses have and continue to save US lives, by providing unique classroom and practical training in IED identification, use, and defeat. This course would be one of many in jeopardy if the permit is not issued.

It is technically well understood that burning off these small quantities of explosive waste is far safer than transporting these materials on public roads, and the burning of these materials poses no health or ecological danger. Yet, your agency, in contradiction of these facts, has filed intent to act not only to obstruct important national security work, but without any real technical justification.

It is not too late for your agency to drop this ill-advised action. The residents of the the State of NM need ethical and technically sound service from its Environmental Department. We need your support.

Michael F. Stevens
citizen
Santa Fe

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4/14/2010

