



Kieling, John, NMENV

From: GregVT@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2010 3:27 PM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: LANL Hazardous Waste Permit- A Comment

Mr Kieling, Program Manager
NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau

Mr Kieling-

It is my understanding that a series of hearings is scheduled starting April 5 to discuss the hazardous waste permit for Los Alamos National Laboratory and that are gathering public comments prior to those hearing. It is also my understanding that a portion of that permit pertaining to "Open Burn" is quite contentious. While I don't claim to be an environmental specialist, I do know about the Lab's work that is dependent upon that permit and believe there is a misconception about that work. I believe many oppose the Open Burn permit because they believe it is a way to oppose nuclear weapons. Actually, loss of the Open Burn permit would not impact the nuclear weapons program at Los Alamos. **The impact would be to shut down work done to understand improved explosives devices- both the kinds used against troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and the kinds used to bring down commercial airliners.** If that work is stopped at the Lab it could likely cost the lives of American and allied troops and may even result in terrorists successfully bringing down an aircraft and killing the passengers.

I realize that the NMED has a vital responsibility to protect the environment of this state. But I also believe it is important that NMED fully understand the implications of preventing LANL from evaluating the types of explosives that terrorists are trying to use against our military and our population here in the U.S. I hope you'll find a way to allow the Lab to continue this vital work, partly because of the importance to our country, but also partly because I fly commercially a few times per month.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Van Tuyle
33 Camino de Vecinos
Santa Fe, NM 87507

3/15/2010

