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CITY OF ESPAÑOLA

ENTERED



September 6, 2011

Alice A. Lucero
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Mayor Pro Tem

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

RE: Open Detonation Permit Process

Dear Mr. Kieling:

On March 29, 2010, at the request of the Española City Council, a letter of support was submitted regarding the Los Alamos National Laboratory's effort to obtain a hazardous waste permit from your department (EP ID No NM0890010515). That letter outlined the City of Española's strong support for open burning authorization on behalf of the Laboratory.

It is my understanding a hazardous waste permit was ultimately obtained by the Laboratory; however, a key provision concerning open burning was remanded back to your agency for further consideration. It is also my understanding that the Laboratory is currently pursuing approval for an additional permit modification concerning its open detonation functions.

Ultimately, I believe that denying authorization for either open burning or open detonation have similar, if not identical, negative implications for my community and the nation. The issuance of permits that allow for open burning and open detonation of non-nuclear waste is essential to protecting our military and the nation's welfare. I trust that these methods of disposal are preferable to other alternatives such as transportation through our city. Furthermore, alternative historical arguments have failed to convince me of significant harmful impacts to the health and safety of our residents and to the environment of northern New Mexico should open burning and open detonation be authorized.

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In summary, I continue to support the Laboratory's efforts to obtain a hazardous waste permit that ultimately authorizes Los Alamos National Laboratory to conduct both open burning and open detonations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (505) 747-6019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice A. Lucero", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alice A. Lucero
Mayor
City of Española