



Kieling, John, NMENV

From: Alan Novak [anovak@lanl.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 4:00 PM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: Proposed Permit 2010

Dear Mr. Kieling,

As it seems NMED permitting policy is tied strongly to public opinion, I would like to add my voice to the many that should be protesting the notice of intent issued by the NMED to deny LANL's permit for open burning. We have been informed that the "overwhelming majority" of 1400 comments submitted for the hearing scheduled for April 5th, 2010 express opposition to the renewal of this burn capability for the laboratory. I find it difficult to believe that this permitting decision, which would have far-reaching effects on both national security and the economic stability of New Mexico, is being driven by the unsubstantiated opinions of such a quixotic, overzealous minority.

If this issue is not strongly tied to public opinion, then I would propose that the decision to renew the permit or not be based on more than uncertainty in the conclusions of the ecological risk assessment.

I quote two statements issued by the laboratory:

"Years of publicly-available data show that the burning poses no human health risk and emits no harmful plume and is rarely even visible."

"A denial of open burning would harm national security, with no appreciable benefit to people or the environment."

Please consider carefully the fact of the technical, economical, and security-related impacts associated with this permit decision. If this permit is denied to LANL because of uncertainties and negative bias, then must they not also be denied everyone else... SNL, Emertech, drivers of automobiles in New Mexico, etc.?

Respectfully,
Alan Novak

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3/15/2010