

Kieling, John, NMENV



From: Marc Gallegos [thediesel42@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 04, 2010 12:02 AM
To: Kieling, John, NMENV
Subject: 2010 Proposed Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Permit
Attachments: NMED Permit doc 2010.doc

Hello John-

Please read attached letter regarding NMED's approval of Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Permit.

Thank you
Marc Gallegos

33368



4/5/2010

John Kieling
New Mexico Environment Department
john.kieling@state.nm.us

Dear Mr. Kieling

I am submitting comments to the Hearing Administrator for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Hazardous Waste Permit Hearing beginning April 5th.

I am writing as a private citizen residing in Santa Fe County who is employed as an Environmental Professional at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Being involved in the protection of human health, and environment is of utmost importance to me, especially being a father of a young daughter. It is critical that the Laboratory and the New Mexico Environment Department implement a Hazardous Waste Operating Permit for operations that simultaneously enables important national security and science missions while achieving protection of human health and the environment. These missions are crucial for a safer world for our children and their children in which terrorism is a constant threat. These terrorists continue to devise clever ways to impose fear and harm worldwide to whoever is not in the same mind set as them. I feel that the New Mexico Environment Department's denial of LANL's ability to treat waste from such research as explosives detection, armor improvement and open burn activities would be very, very detrimental to our country's counterterrorism efforts that LANL plays an invaluable role in. If New Mexico Environmental Department denies this portion of the operating permit, it will be of no added value to the protection of human health or the environment especially without any "concrete scientific" evidence that these activities are harmful to human health or the environment. These activities are closely monitored both by New Mexico Environment Department and LANL personnel and are actually safer to continue this research at LANL. Additional reasons for keeping this vital research at LANL is, burning is safer than transportation on public highways, none of these wastes come from nuclear research, without open burn capabilities "orphan/unknown waste" will have limited paths forward and most importantly, we owe it to our men and women in our military to have the best cutting edge technology to protect them around the world.

As an employee in the environmental area at LANL, I have seen great strides with the Labs new management team with respect to all environmental aspects. RCRA wastes have been significantly reduced, findings and fines are very, very low, pollution prevention is in full gear, and our Environmental Management System is working towards continuous improvements.

I respectfully ask that the hearing committee consider my opinion in that LANL needs an operating permit that is based on sound science, empirical evidence and fair oversight with respect to research that deals with explosives detection and armor and is not omitted from LANL's Hazardous Waste Operating Permit. I urge the Hearing Administrator to assure that this is the case.

Sincerely,
Marc R. Gallegos
Certified Hazardous Material Manager, Registered Environmental Manger, Registered Environmental Property Assessor, Certified Inspector Sediment and Erosion Control, OSHA Environmental Specialist Certification