

**Kieling, John, NMENV**

**From:** Jake Meadows [jmead1707@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 02, 2010 2:40 PM  
**To:** Kieling, John, NMENV  
**Subject:** RCRA Permit -- Open Burning Comment

Good Afternoon,

I am writing as a concerned private citizen, conservationist, and degreed Environmental Scientist.

While the vast majority of the Draft RCRA permit allows LANL to complete operations and research that protect our country, there is a significant percentage that is overly restrictive and appears to bow to the ill-informed views of extreme activist groups. The focus of my comments, however, is open burning at LANL.

Per NMED's fact sheet on open burning: "The adjusted hazard quotients indicated acceptable risk for all receptors with the exception of the deer mouse, Montane Shrew, plant, and earthworm, which had hazards indicative of low to moderate risk." Understanding New Mexico's target levels for cancer risk and hazard (1E-5 and 1.0, respectively) this assertion does not provide justification for disallowing open burning on the premise of a limited risk to non-protected species. Furthermore, NMED would be doing this country a huge disservice by stopping open burning, there is no just cause in jeopardizing the security of our troops and the stability of largest employer in Northern New Mexico. The effects of disallowing open burning at LANL would be far reaching and hard felt.

On a personal note, my brother-in-law has served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is scheduled to be deployed for a third tour in 2010. Having heard first-hand stories of friends lost to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and having seen photographs of the destruction they cause underlies the importance of the research completed at Los Alamos and enabled by open burning.

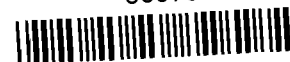
A RCRA permit that regulates an institution like LANL needs to be based on sound science. Science that has already demonstrated that open burning and its residuals pose no significant threat to human life and the environment.

From my experience, nowhere in this country is there an institution with a more comprehensive network of environmental surveillance, remediation, compliance, and dedicated professionals than at LANL. Despite having Environmental Programs that rival any in the world and serve to protect the people and environment of New Mexico, LANL is continually vilified in papers, on the news, and on radio for its perceived environmental shortcomings. Without allowing research institutions like LANL to operate, we risk the protections and freedoms we often take for granted. The time has come to tune out propaganda and fear-mongers and support science that protects America.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.  
God Bless America!

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