



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fe

STEPHANIE GARCIA RICHARD
D - Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Sandoval & Santa Fe
District 43

30 Glenview Court
Los Alamos, NM 87544
Home Phone: (505) 500-4343
E-mail: stephanie.garciarichard@nmlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Appropriations & Finance
Education
Enrolling & Engrossing - B

Kathryn Roberts

Director, Resource Protection Division
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506

Re: Revised Consent Order

May 31, 2016

Dear Ms. Roberts,

I am writing today to express my support for the Revised Consent Order for environmental cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

As you know, this is an issue that impacts myself and my constituents directly, as we live within a short distance of the nuclear waste that has been stored and generated at LANL. Additionally, I represent a number of people both in Los Alamos and in the surrounding counties of my legislative district—Rio Arriba, Sandoval and Santa Fe—that have contracts with LANL specifically for environmental remediation work. So on behalf of all of my constituents, I would like to advocate for a safe, thorough and timely process of remediation for that waste.

I believe that the Revised Consent Order will provide an effective framework for ensuring that the cleanup work at LANL is carried out safely and methodically, while allowing for continued monitoring and oversight by the proper regulatory bodies, namely the New Mexico Environment Department.

Historically, we have witnessed the results of pressured timelines and unrealistic goals in environmental remediation in the human error that led to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project truck fire and subsequent radiological release from a storage drum in 2014. It is my highest priority to support a regulatory

procedure for cleanup that will ensure we do not repeat those occurrences. I believe that the Revised Consent Order, with its “structure for accomplishing work on a priority basis through cleanup campaigns with achievable milestones and targets” will allow for cleanup campaigns to be designed that can be site specific and flexible, with a built in annual planning process. Additionally, the Revised Consent Order retains the public participation component so essential to the original Consent Order of 2005, so that all impacted stakeholders can participate in a process that will be highly transparent.

Finally, in addition to advocating for the safety of my own family and constituents and for participation from the public, I would like to ensure that local contractors that do the work of environmental remediation are considered in the Revised Consent Order. I would like to recommend that no less than 30% of all environmental remediation be set aside for local, small business subcontractors.

For the reasons stated above and others, I stand in support of the Revised Consent Order. A considered regulatory structure such as the RCO will ensure the health, safety, and economic wellbeing of the local community.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephanie Garcia Richard

State Representative, District 43

Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Sandoval and Santa Fe counties