



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-2855



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

CINDY PADILLA
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director
Telephone: (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

Environment Department Seeks Public Comment on Draft Hazardous Waste Permit for Sandia National Laboratories

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) today released for public comment a draft hazardous waste facility operating permit for Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) located in Bernalillo County. The draft Permit governs SNL’s operation of 10 waste management units at its facility.

“This permit is designed to dovetail with the historic, fence-to-fence clean up order to both ensure legacy waste is remediated and future operations at SNL are as safe as possible,” said Jon Goldstein, NMED Director of the Water and Waste Management Division.

The historic fence-to-fence April 29, 2004 cleanup order governs ongoing environmental cleanup, and the draft permit requires cleanup activities after the order terminates as well ensuring the safe handling, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste at the facility. The draft permit also sets a schedule for groundwater contamination source tracking and cleanup work throughout SNL.

NMED invites the public to submit written comments on the draft Permit during a 60-day public comment period that starts today. Members of the public may submit to NMED written comments on the draft permit at any time during the public comment period. NMED will issue a final permit after considering all written comments from the public.

Both the draft permit and the administrative record may be reviewed at the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau at 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, N.M. 87505-6303. Appointments can be scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Procedures for submitting written comments, requests for a public hearing, and a copy of the draft Permit are also available at the NMED Web site:

<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/snlperm.html> under SNL Draft Permit

Written comments and requests for a public hearing will be accepted until **5:00 p.m. MDT, October 19, 2007.**

For additional information, please contact James Bearzi, Chief, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, at (505) 476-6016, or Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475.

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