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From: DOE.WEBMASTER@hq.doe.gov on behalf of Department of Energy
<DOE.WEBMASTER@hq.doe.gov> 2020 JAN 16 PM2:02
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Secretary Brouillette
Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us

Submitted on Thursday, January 16, 2020 - 11:57
Submitted by anonymous user: 97.123.73.81
Submitted values are:

Topic or category: Safety and Security
Affiliation: General Public
Subject: 2016 New Mexico-Los Alamos Consent Decree

Message:

Dear Department of Energy Secretary:

I just read in The Taos News about a revision to the 2005 Los Alamos consent decree that would change hard deadlines to milestones and based on budgeted funds.

What's at stake in delaying this cleanup? Contamination to the Rio Grande. Well, where does the Rio Grande flow? It flows south and into the Albuquerque Basin. If all this water was contaminated, how many folks would be impacted? 800,000! It would make all those communities (many Native American) unable to remain in those areas without considerable expense of trucking in water. Who would pay for this water? My guess is anyone that wanted to stay in the area and at their expense.

I live in Placitas, NM that just went through a similar scenario except with proposed horizontal fracking in Sandoval County of which Placitas is contained within. If "by accident" the Albuquerque Basin with its multitudes of irregular faults, fissures and porous layers had the toxic water used by fracking rise into the water table, again, the result would be the same as the previous illustration.

We cannot live without clean water. We cannot be a productive state without clean water.

Should the Rio Grande be contaminated because there just were not funds to take care of the Los Alamos waste storage areas, it would gravely impact this state. New Mexico is one of the poorer states in the union that cannot afford such a drastic course of events.

I would like to see the revised consent decree have hard deadlines based on the input of those that do this type of work. I want there to be fines for not make deadlines and bonuses for beating deadlines. This works well in highway construction with many companies cashing bonus checks! There needs to be a final deadline for complete waste cleanup too.

In the future, if this has not already been done, any future work generating waste should have funds in the project dedicated to waste cleanup and management. No project should be funded without approved and funded cleanup.

If you don't have the funds for cleanup then don't start the project.
Period.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions.

Sincerely,

Erica Wendel-Oglesby
Homeowner, Placitas and Taos, New Mexico
Do you want a reply: Yes
How should we respond? Email
Email address: erica8@q.com

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.energy.gov/node/268177/submission/1280687>