

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
BEFORE THE  
WATER QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION

PETITION FOR REVIEW OF THE DECISION )  
OF THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT ) WQCC No.22-21  
DEPARTMENT ISSUING GROUND WATER )  
DISCHARGE PERMIT No. DP-1132 )

SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM  
ON MOTION BY PETITIONERS  
CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY  
AND HONOR OUR PUEBLO EXISTENCE  
TO VACATE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER DISQUALIFICATION

**Preliminary statement**

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety ("CCNS") and Honor Our Pueblo Existence ("HOPE") (collectively, "Petitioners") submit this supplemental memorandum on their motion to vacate decisions by the Water Quality Control Commission ("WQCC" or the "Commission") that were made while the Commission Chair, Ms. Stephanie Stringer, was disqualified by a conflicting interest.

Counsel for Petitioners has sought the concurrence of counsel for the New Mexico Environment Department ("NMED"), the Department of Energy National

Nuclear Security Administration ("DOE/NNSA"), and Triad National Security, LLC ("Triad"). Such parties do not oppose this motion.

#### **Recent disclosures**

1. Petitioners submit the following additional information, recently obtained, to supplement their showing in support of their motion to vacate rulings in which the disqualified Commission Chair Stephanie Stringer participated. To show the timing and sequence of events, Petitioners include relevant events from the known record.
2. It has now been disclosed by DOE/NNSA that the following schedule applied to DOE/NNSA's hiring of Commission Chair Stephanie Stringer:
  - a. Date the USAJOBS vacancy opened. July 29, 2022
  - b. Date of Ms. Stringer's application was submitted via the USAJOBS portal. August 7, 2022
  - c. Date the NNSA hiring official received access to the certification list which would have contained her name among the list of candidates. August 12, 2022
  - d. Date of interview. August 23, 2022
  - e. Date of initial offer. August 31, 2022
  - f. Date of onboarding. November 6, 2022

3. Thus, the job opening was posted on July 29, 2022, and Chair Stringer submitted her job application to DOE/NNSA on August 7, which is two days before the August 9 Commission hearing. At that hearing, Permittees (Triad and DOE/NNSA) presented a motion to stay all proceedings until the Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Appeals Board ("EAB") issues a decision in a case concerning a federal discharge permit at the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility. Ms. Stringer presided, and she announced her position that "It is important to know the determination that is made by the EAB." (Hearing, Aug. 9, 2022, at 3:13). She called for a vote on Permittees' motion, which passed.
4. Commission Chair Stringer was promptly invited to an interview with DOE/NNSA, which occurred on August 23, 2022. The following week she signed the Commission's order, granting a stay of all proceedings pending the decision of the EPA EAB. (Order, August 30, 2022).
5. On the next day, August 31, 2022, DOE/NNSA offered Chair Stringer a salaried position.
6. With the job offer in hand, Chair Stringer still did not disclose her plans but continued in the employ of NMED and as Chair of the Commission. At the hearing on September 13, Petitioners moved to reverse the issuance of the permit, DP-1132, based on the statutory limitation of § 74-6-12.B NMSA

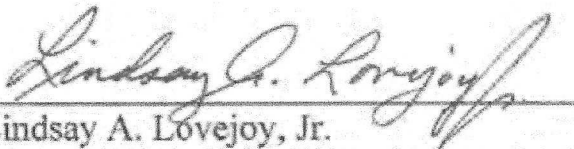
1978, which prohibits a Water Quality Act, § 74-6-1 *et seq.* NMSA 1978, permit for a facility that is subject to the Hazardous Waste Act, § 74-4-1 *et seq.* NMSA 1978. When a motion was made, based on the stay of proceedings, to refuse to reverse the permit, Chair Stringer called for a second, and when no member spoke up, she seconded the motion herself and called for a vote (Hearing, Sept. 13, 2022, at 34 min.), and it passed.

7. On October 31, 2022, Chair Stringer resigned her position with the State and, on November 6, 2022, reported for work in her new job with DOE/NNSA.

### Conclusion

Petitioners submit that the facts establish a clear case of disqualification and call for the Commission to vacate the decisions in which Chair Stringer participated.

Respectfully submitted,



Lindsay A. Lovejoy, Jr.  
Counsel for Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety  
and Honor Our Pueblo Existence  
3600 Cerrillos Road, Unit 1001A  
Santa Fe, NM 87507  
(505) 983-1800  
[lindsay@lindsaylovejoy.com](mailto:lindsay@lindsaylovejoy.com)

November 17, 2022



## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 17, 2022 a true and correct copy of the foregoing *Supplemental Memorandum on Motion by Petitioners Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety and Honor Our Pueblo Existence to Vacate Orders Issued Under Disqualification* was served on the below-listed counsel for the Parties to the Water Quality Control Commission proceedings by email. A copy can be sent via U.S. mail first class, postage prepaid, upon request.

Pamela Jones, Commission Administrator  
Water Quality Control Commission  
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite S-2103  
Santa Fe, NM 87502  
[pamela.jones@state.nm.us](mailto:pamela.jones@state.nm.us)

Robert F. Sanchez  
New Mexico Office of the Attorney General  
408 Galisteo Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
[rfsanchez@nmag.gov](mailto:rfsanchez@nmag.gov)

### *Counsel for the Water Quality Control Commission*

Christopher Atencio, Assistant General Counsel  
Lisa Chai, Assistant General Counsel  
New Mexico Environment Department  
121 Tijeras Avenue, NE, Suite 1000  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
[christopher.atencio@state.nm.us](mailto:christopher.atencio@state.nm.us)  
[lisa.chai1@state.nm.us](mailto:lisa.chai1@state.nm.us)

### *Counsel for the New Mexico Environment Department:*

Silas R. DeRoma, Site Counsel  
U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA  
Los Alamos Site Office  
3747 West Jemez Road, MS-A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

silas.deroma@nnsa.doe.gov

*Counsel for the U.S. Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration*

Jeffrey J. Wechsler  
Kari E. Olson  
Montgomery & Andrews, P.A.  
P. O. Box 2307  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-2307  
jwechsler@montand.com  
kolson@montand.com

and

Maxine M. McReynolds  
Christopher Stoneback  
Office of General Counsel  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P. O. Box 1663, MS A187  
Los Alamos, NM 87545  
mcreynolds@lanl.gov  
stoneback@lanl.gov

*Counsel for Triad National Security, LLC*

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Joni Arends