



Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

SEP 17 2009

Mr. Robert Gilkeson  
P.O. Box 670  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Dear Mr. Gilkeson:

This is in response to the August 30, 2009, email that you sent to Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Inés R. Triay in which you expressed concerns about the Department of Energy's (DOE) groundwater protection measures at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

Dr. Triay and I understand the gravity of your concerns. The Office of Environmental Management (EM) remains steadfastly committed to assuring the health and safety of the public surrounding its many sites. This principle remains foremost among EM's guiding tenets, and we will never compromise the health and safety of the public or DOE workers under any circumstances.

To more effectively address your concerns and to improve communication, EM is proposing a series of meetings in which you will be able to interface directly with senior Headquarters and field technical staff and leadership. It is our intent that these meetings will entail a full and rigorous exploration of your concerns, and any resulting recommendations will receive the highest level of management attention within EM.

I am aware that the Assistant Secretary has communicated this proposal personally to you on August 31, 2009, and that a second follow-on conference call took place on September 2, 2009, with you and members of my staff to begin preliminary logistics discussions. I have also been advised that your first meeting will take place on September 24, 2009, in Washington, D.C. I am hopeful that this constructive path forward will complement EM's ongoing stakeholder interactions, with an eye towards assuring successful completion of the EM mission at LANL.

If you have any questions about this approach, please feel free to contact either Dr. John Wengle of my staff at (202) 586-0396 or myself at (202) 586-0755.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Gilbertson".

Mark A. Gilbertson  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Engineering and Technology  
Office of Environmental Management