November \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

By email to: Pam.Castaneda@state.nm.us, Hearing Clerk

 John.Verheul@state.nm.us, NMED Attorney

 Steve.Pullen@state.nm.us, NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau

Pam Castañeda, Hearing Clerk

New Mexico Environment Department

P. O. Box 5469

Santa Fe, NM 87502

Re: Public Comments about LANL Groundwater Discharge Permit

 DP-1793, No. GWB 18-05 (P)

Dear Ms. Castañeda:

I am deeply concerned about this discharge permit for groundwater remediation projects at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

The permit allows LANL to treat the polluted ground waters to less than 90 percent of the standards. The New Mexico standard for total chromium (chromium 3 and chromium 6) is 50 parts per billion (ppb). If LANL treats the water to less than 90 percent of the standard, it will be injecting contaminated waters of 45 ppb. Despite being asked on numerous occasions about treating waters to 25 ppb, or 12.5 ppb, or 0 ppb, LANL has not provided an answer. Basically, it will cost the same.

The permit must require the most protective standards for public health for all potential pollutants. In 2011, California issued a public health goal of 0.02 ppb. While this goal is being challenged, it is clear that California is on the path to establishing a standard that is orders of magnitude more protective than New Mexico’s 50 ppb. <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Chromium6.html>

The University of California made this mess. They should be required to clean it up to the standards that apply in California.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,

Name and email address