

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 28, 2009



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9/2/09

Dr. J. D. Campbell
Chair, Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board
1660 Old Pecos Trail, Suite B
Santa Fe, New Mexico 97505

Dear Dr. Campbell:

This is in response to your July 29, 2009, letter on the recycling of valuable materials from environmental restoration work at the Department of Energy (DOE) sites. We appreciate the Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board's (NNMCAB's) efforts to provide recommendations that will further pollution prevention at DOE sites and find considerable merit in them.

Your recommendations specifically suggest that:

1. DOE initiate a coordinated Federal effort to develop, as quickly as is practical, an effective national policy for recycling valuable materials salvaged from the ER efforts at legacy sites throughout the DOE complex;
2. Consider budget modifications for fiscal year (FY) 2010 and future years to support implementation of recycling policy direction; and
3. Contract language be developed and implemented to provide incentives for EM contractors to support the recycling policy.

As you are aware, we received similar recommendations from you and the other Chairs of the Environmental Management (EM) Site-Specific Advisory Board. We believe the response we sent you on August 27, 2009, partially addresses the NNMCAB's recommendation. As to one of your other points, as described in DOE Order 450.1A, DOE contracts include requirements to integrate environmentally sustainable practices, including recycling of valuable materials, into contractor operations. As a result, the Los Alamos National Laboratory recycled 1,275 metric tons of solid materials in FY 2008, while DOE recycled more than 100,000 metric tons from its production, analytical, and research and development activities across the country. To the extent these materials contain radioactivity or are scrap metal generated within DOE sites' contaminated areas, DOE's policies prohibiting unrestricted release are strictly followed.

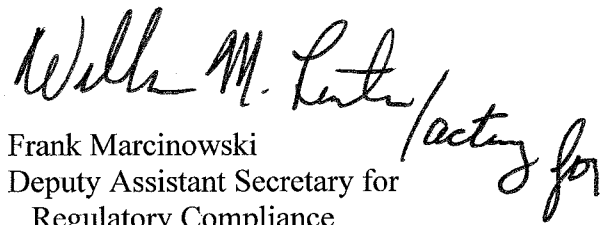
DOE expects its contractors to integrate cost-effective sustainable practices, such as recycling valuable materials into all of their activities, and DOE oversees contractor progress towards sustainability goals. In some cases, DOE includes pollution prevention performance measures, which may include recycling, in contractor performance plans to drive improvements in this area. By overseeing existing contractual requirements for pollution prevention and recycling and by using contract performance measures, DOE has made substantial progress in recycling various materials.



Going forward, we will evaluate opportunities to more extensively use contract performance measures to drive increased recycling of materials under EM contracts. Requesting additional budget to implement recycling initiatives that may require large initial funding is also an option for DOE to consider.

Again, we thank you for your input and for your continued support as we continue our efforts to remediate EM sites. If you have any further questions, please contact me directly at (202) 586-0370 or have your staff contact Ms. Melissa Nielson, Director, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Accountability, at (202) 586-0356.

Sincerely,


Frank Marcinowski
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Regulatory Compliance

cc: Jeff Casalina, NNM CAB
Menice Santistevan, NNM CAB
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