

Joyce L. Connery, Chairman  
Jessie H. Roberson, Vice Chairman  
Sean Sullivan  
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Bruce Hamilton

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



October 27, 2016

Mr. David McCoy  
Executive Director  
Citizen Action New Mexico  
P.O. Box 4276  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196

Dear Mr. McCoy:

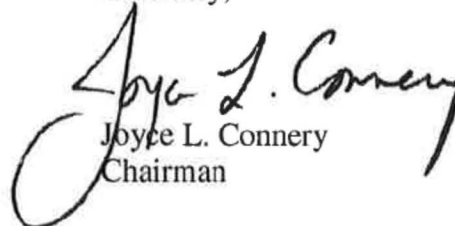
Thank you for your January 21 and September 15, 2016, letters regarding the Mixed Waste Landfill (MWL) at Sandia National Laboratories. Based on our analysis of the site, the MWL is a defense nuclear facility under our jurisdiction.

After reviewing both your letter and the additional materials you provided, we followed up with the Department of Energy (DOE) to better understand the disposal history at the MWL. What we found is that the MWL contained approximately 6,300 curies of radioactivity at the time of disposal, has a cap of over four feet in depth, has no detected leakage into groundwater, and has no record of bulk metallic sodium disposal. The last disposal operations took place 28 years ago, and there are currently no disposal or storage operations taking place. In addition, DOE's Inspector General recently reviewed the disposal history at the MWL, and found no record of high-level waste burial.

Even though the jurisdictional predicate is established, we must prioritize when and where to exercise our oversight function. The Board focuses on defense nuclear facilities that are operational and pose the highest risk. The Board is also aware of the comprehensive state and federal regulatory activity directed at the MWL. Given these facts, the Board has decided not to apply oversight resources to the MWL at this time.

If new information on the disposal history at the site comes to light, or if DOE decides to excavate the site, we may reassess this position.

Sincerely,

  
Joyce L. Connery  
Chairman

c: Mr. Joe Olencz