



Department of Energy
Under Secretary for Nuclear Security
Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



April 30, 2020

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your April 22 letter concerning the requests by a number of individuals and organizations for a further extension of the comment period on the draft Supplement Analysis (SA) for plutonium pit production at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). I appreciate the strong support you have shown for the important work being done at the laboratory, including the proposed plutonium pit production mission.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge for all of us. But critical national security missions must move forward in spite of this difficult situation. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has worked closely with the management and operating contractor, TRIAD National Security, LLC, to take precautions to protect our workforce while at the same time prudently and carefully continuing the work that protects our Nation. The plutonium pit production mission is one of our highest national security priorities and is being done in accordance with congressional direction. We must press forward with this project in order to meet Department of Defense deliverables.

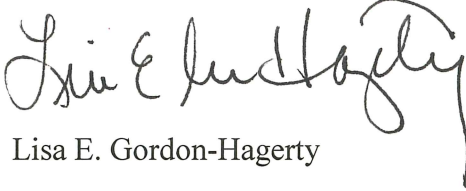
As you may know, under relevant regulations, an SA is usually prepared with no comment period. However, given the public interest in the plutonium pit production mission at LANL, NNSA decided to give interested persons an opportunity to comment on a draft of the document. In addition, the draft SA is based on the Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for LANL. The groups seeking an extension of time were heavily involved in the development of that environmental impact statement and should be well-prepared to comment on the draft SA.

NNSA gave serious consideration to the original request by these same groups for an extension of time. After consideration of all issues, we decided to extend the comment period by 15 days. We believe that this extension of time represents the right balance of respect for public input with the imperatives of national security. I appreciate your interest in this matter and take your concerns very seriously. I hope you can understand the reasons behind the difficult decision we have had to make. Thank you again for your support for NNSA and for LANL.



If you have any questions about this important matter, please contact Ms. Nora Khalil, Associate Administrator for External Affairs, NNSA, at (202) 586-7332.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa E. Gordon-Hagerty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

Lisa E. Gordon-Hagerty