



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Office of the General Counsel
Forrestal Building, Room 6F-055
Washington, D.C. 20585



May 1, 2007

By Facsimile (505-983-0036) & First Class Mail

Ms. Alletta Belin
Belin Sugarman
618 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Ms. Belin:

In response to your letter to me and others of March 28, 2007, I want to assure you and your client that the National Nuclear Security Administration will not authorize interim operations at the Los Alamos National Laboratory's new BSL-3 facility. Prior to completion of the NEPA process and issuance of a decision document, activities at the facility will be limited to: (1) maintenance of the facility, equipment and grounds; (2) required periodic certifications of safety systems (e.g., fire suppression equipment and ventilation hoods); and (3) office work. There will not be any work requiring BSL-1 protocols, or any work involving DNA sequencing or analysis.

NNSA and the laboratory intend to complete the NEPA process soon. Please contact me at 202-586-1371 if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Paul Detwiler". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

R. Paul Detwiler
Deputy General Counsel