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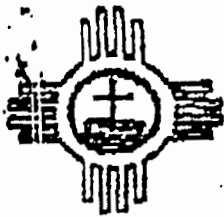
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new mexico conference of churches

124 HERMOSA, S.E. • ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102-2810 • (505) 255-1209

June 30, 1984

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
% US Senate
Washington, DC

Telem 345048

Dear Senator Bingaman,

The New Mexico Conference of Churches has recently become involved in helping to establish a Site Specific Advisory Board for the Sandia laboratory facility. As you may be aware, all national facilities which in the past handled and stored nuclear material are now, as a part of the clean-up process, required to have in place an Advisory Board composed of community people so that the environmental restoration can be monitored by independent parties.

Both the Department of Energy and numerous environmental advocacy groups requested that The New Mexico Conference of Churches help move the process along, as a neutral party which had close ties to the community. We have accepted this responsibility quite unreservedly for it does represent an opportunity to build trust between the community, advocates and Sandia Laboratory in this new era of openness.

My point in writing you and the other members of the NM delegation is to express our frustration and disappointment that the Department of Defense will not join in this important collaborative effort. Their stance is one of distant observer when indeed the opportunity for collaboration is upon us. Not only will the creation of a separate Site Specific Advisory Board for DOD-Kirtland be a duplication or continued waste of financial resources, it divides the energy of the community to be involved. As an outsider, I have heard of no reasonable excuse why the two processes cannot be joined at this critical moment of formation.

I would appreciate your investigation into this reluctance on the part of DOD, and use your good office to invite DOD to consider this particular site (Albuquerque) as an opportunity for a cooperative joint venture between two major players on the NM economy and the community of Albuquerque.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to hearing from your office in the immediate future.

Cordially yours,

Wallace Ford
Wallace Ford

Executive Secretary, NMCC

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS: CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLE OF CHRIST), CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL, EASTERN ORTHODOX EPISCOPAL, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA), ROMAN CATHOLIC, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, UNITED METHODIST REGIONAL SYNODS: ALBUQUERQUE ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE, GALLUP ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE, SABELLA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

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