

ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

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VIA FACSIMILE

Honorable Thomas D'Agostino
Administrator
National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

RE: JOB CUTS AT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LABORATORIES IMPACT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Dear Administrator D'Agostino:

The Energy Communities Alliance ("ECA") is concerned with the recent announcements of job cuts at National Nuclear Security Administration ("NNSA") laboratories. To date, NNSA has announced plans to layoff workers at Los Alamos National Laboratories, Sandia National Laboratories, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories due to inadequate federal funding. These cuts will have a substantial impact on the surrounding communities.

As the organization of local governments and communities adjacent to or impacted by NNSA and DOE activities, ECA requests that NNSA engage ECA and its members prior to undertaking the planned job cuts at NNSA facilities. In addition, since job cuts have now become a reality DOE must begin to look at how to address these impacts from a corporate perspective. To date, communities have not seen any indication that NNSA is discussing how to work with communities to ameliorate the impacts.

ECA thus requests that local governments and communities be active participants in the development of any workforce restructuring plans pursuant to Section 3161 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (Public Law 102-484) ("Section 3161"). Section 3161 requires NNSA to develop a plan to restructure its workforce upon determination that a change in the workforce is necessary, and also states, in pertinent part:

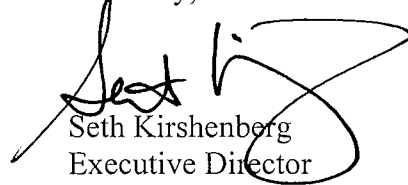
Consultation.--(1) In developing a [restructuring plan] plan . . . the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Labor, appropriate representatives of local and national collective-bargaining units of individuals employed at Department of Energy defense nuclear facilities, appropriate representatives of departments and agencies of State and local governments. . . (emphasis added).

Thus, in current circumstances and in the event that future circumstances include job cuts at NNSA sites, NNSA is required to consult with local governments and communities in the development of workforce restructuring plans as required by law.

It has been our experience that ECA and DOE/NNSA working together has been a mutually beneficial relationship, and we expect that continued dialogue with respect to specific workforce issues would be no different.

ECA appreciates your leadership over the years and thanks you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me directly at (202) 828-2494.

Sincerely,



Seth Kirshenber
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Samuel Bodman, Secretary, US DOE
Jim West, Chair, Los Alamos County Council, Los Alamos, NM
Joe Maestas, Mayor, Espanola, NM
Marshall Kamena, Mayor of Livermore, CA
Martin Chavez, Mayor, Albuquerque, NM
ECA Chair, Lorraine Anderson, Councilmember, Arvada, CO
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David Campbell, Director of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, NNSA