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HOUSE MEMORIAL 21

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

INTRODUCED BY

Brian F. Egolf

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY TO ACTIVELY WORK WITH THE BUCKMAN DIRECT DIVERSION BOARD TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF SANTA FE'S DRINKING WATER.

WHEREAS, the proposed Buckman direct diversion project is planned to provide a sustainable supply of drinking water for Santa Fe; and

WHEREAS, the Buckman direct diversion board and area residents have expressed concern about potential water contamination from Los Alamos and Pueblo canyons, which discharge into the Rio Grande approximately three miles upstream of the Buckman direct diversion project site; and

WHEREAS, in November 2007, the Buckman direct diversion board communicated specific concerns about drinking water

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1 safety and asked for a written commitment to ensure the safety  
2 of the drinking water supply of Santa Fe; and

3 WHEREAS, substantial progress has been made on many,  
4 though not all, of the issues covered in the November 2007  
5 Buckman direct diversion board letter request; and

6 WHEREAS, staff from the Buckman direct diversion board has  
7 been working for more than a year with regional representatives  
8 of the national nuclear security administration and Los Alamos  
9 national laboratory on a memorandum of agreement to identify  
10 actions and responsibilities to address these issues; and

11 WHEREAS, after repeated requests and efforts to begin  
12 negotiations on a memorandum of agreement, in January 2010,  
13 regional representatives of the national nuclear security  
14 administration and Los Alamos national laboratory indicated  
15 their intent to begin negotiations on the memorandum of  
16 agreement; and

17 WHEREAS, significant time has been spent on the technical  
18 issues of the environmental monitoring that is necessary to  
19 ensure a safe water supply for the residents of Santa Fe and  
20 its environs; and

21 WHEREAS, the most important unresolved issue in the  
22 November 2007 Buckman direct diversion board letter request is  
23 the implementation and operation of an early notification  
24 system; and

25 WHEREAS, time is of the essence because construction of

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1 the diversion project is underway and is expected to be  
2 completed by the spring of 2011;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that, to ensure the  
5 safety of Santa Fe's drinking water, the national nuclear  
6 security administration of the United States department of  
7 energy be urged to actively work with the Buckman direct  
8 diversion board and Los Alamos national laboratory on a  
9 memorandum of agreement regarding issues of water quality and,  
10 specifically, on the implementation and operation of an early  
11 notification system; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that representatives of the  
13 national nuclear security administration of the United States  
14 department of energy and the Buckman direct diversion board  
15 report to the appropriate New Mexico interim legislative  
16 committee dealing with water and natural resource issues before  
17 July 1, 2010 on the progress of their negotiations on a  
18 memorandum of agreement; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional  
20 delegation join the New Mexico house of representatives to urge  
21 the national nuclear security administration of the department  
22 of energy to engage in this work; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that regional representatives of  
24 the national nuclear security administration immediately resume  
25 negotiations regarding the memorandum of agreement so that a

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1 resolution can be reached to address these critical issues; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the chair of the Buckman direct diversion board,  
4 the Los Alamos office of the national nuclear security  
5 administration of the United States department of energy and  
6 the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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