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June 5, 2006

Patrice M. Bubar,  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CORPORATE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT  
EH-3/Building 270  
US Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585-0270

**Subject: Managing Uncertainty with Systematic Planning for Environmental Decision Making**

Dear Ms. Bubar:

On May 16-18, 2006, five of us representing the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) DOE Oversight Bureau, the State's Agreement-in-Principle (AIP), were fortunate enough to attend Sebastian Tindall's course, *Managing Uncertainty with Systematic Planning for Environmental Decision Making* at the White Rock PS-13 Training Center at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). As you know, this training is funded by your organization under the direction of George Detsis, EH-31. We are here to tell you that this is money very well spent.

Although we've attempted to complete Data Quality Objectives (DQO) for past AIP projects our success has been approximate. Additionally, the DOE Oversight Bureau has played a key role at LANL during the past 14 years by reviewing frequent facility Environmental Restoration Projects where the DQO process was improperly applied. The most notable outcome being a diminished reputation for the DQO process as well as many dollars spent with few sites cleaned up. Following the course we are very optimistic that we'll be able to effectively complete DQOs for all of our AIP sampling projects. We now fully understand which DQO steps are easy and which areas are difficult. Fortunately, Visual Sample Plan promises to be an effective tool to help us complete the difficult part.

Ms. Patrice M. Bubar  
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Sebastian was able to clarify statistical concepts that have been sticking points among my staff for years. Through his use of excellent visual tools, I see the points myself. This particular class seems to have been remarkably successful. Our only disappointment is that other members of our Department did not attend. We are also saddened that the course was not attended by our colleagues from the Tribes, LANL and DOE. If there is any way possible to bring this course back to the area we would be happy to recruit staff from the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau and our clients whom we are sure would benefit from this training. In particular need of this training are some of our middle and upper managers. I would be especially pleased to solicit the endorsement and attendance of my Bureau Chief (and strongly encourage our Division Director to participate as well).

We are very pleased with the results of Sebastian's course. It exceeded all of our expectations. It has been a pleasure working with Sebastian. Thank you for providing this training. We hope we will be able to repeat it with additional staff and managers soon.

Sincerely,



Steve Yanicak, Point-of-Contact/Staff Manager

SY:sy

cc: Cindy Padilla, NMED, Deputy Director  
Tom Skitbitsky, NMED, Bureau Chief, DOE OB  
Ralph Ford-Schmid, NMED, DOE OB

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