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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Ms. Barbara Gastian
Compliance Section Director
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
PO Box 568
Albuquerque, NM 87103-0568

REFERENCE: Close-out of Project XL for the Pilot Pretreatment Program of the City of Albuquerque/Public Works Department

Dear Ms. Gastian:

I am writing with regard to the final close-out of the environmental innovation project conducted by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) and the City of Albuquerque/Public Works Department through the EPA program, *Project XL* (<http://www.epa.gov/projectxl/file2.htm>).

Project XL (“eXcellence and Leadership”) was an EPA national pilot innovation program that allowed state and local governments, businesses and federal facilities to develop innovative strategies with EPA to test better or more cost-effective ways of achieving environmental and public health protection. In exchange, EPA issued regulatory, program, policy, or procedural flexibility to conduct the experiment. EPA stopped accepting new projects under Project XL in 2002 and is now in the process of completing documentation to close the records for individual innovation demonstration projects.

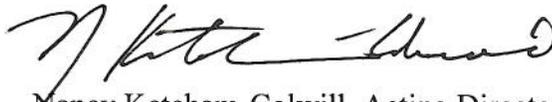
On February 3, 2000, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, the State of New Mexico Green Zia Environmental Excellence Program, New Mexico Silver Users Association, and EPA were joint signatories to a Final Project Agreement for this innovative pilot project. The expected benefits of the project were to identify the origins of hazardous materials and pollutants in wastewater through sub-basin sampling and monitoring, create a broad pollution prevention (P2) program to prevent pollutant transfers between different multi-media outlets, integrate the existing Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) with the best management practices of industries/businesses in Albuquerque to stabilize and reduce overall targeted/total mass pollutant loadings over time, and to further increase the collaboration and communication between the local industries/businesses and the Albuquerque Public Works Department regarding pollution prevention.

The outcomes of these projects were described in a 2003 report issued by the City of Albuquerque Public Works Department. This report appears on the EPA's website (<http://www.epa.gov/projectxl/alb/final-report.pdf>). The final report indicates that the Pilot Pretreatment Program of the City of Albuquerque has been an overall success when measured against the Final Project Agreement. The report documented that pollutant concentration percentages and impacts have been clearly identified and reduced over time. Additionally, the report noted the increased level of collaboration between the city government and local businesses on pollution prevention (P2) programs and other best management practices.

Through this letter, we are documenting the completion of the pilot project conducted by the City of Albuquerque under Project XL. We would like to thank representatives of the city, county, state, and others who worked hard on developing and implementing the project. Much has been learned from these projects through those efforts.

If we can provide you with any additional information on Project XL, please feel free to contact Gerald Filbin at EPA Headquarters Office of Policy (202) 566-2182.

Sincerely yours,



Nancy Ketcham-Colwill, Acting Director
Office of Strategic Environmental Management

cc: Adele Cardinas, EPA Region 6
Pat Berrett, New Mexico SUA
Ben Zimmerman, Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA)
Gerald Filbin, EPA/AO/OP/OSEM
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