



**Department of Energy**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
**Washington, DC 20585**



February 6, 2023

Mr. Alan Varela  
City of Albuquerque Planning Department  
Plaza del Sol Building  
600 Second NW  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Mr. Varela,

In 2020, I, a warranted Real Estate Contracting Officer of the Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA), authorized the National Atomic Museum Foundation to proceed with the design, construction and operation of a Museum Artifact Center (MAC) storage facility at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History located at 601 Eubank Blvd SE. The United States of America, acting by and through DOE/NNSA, owns the underlying land to the Museum. NNSA leases this land to the Foundation at no cost other than for public benefit.

As a private non-profit entity, the Museum and the Foundation procures its social services through the City of Albuquerque, including regular facility inspections such as fire suppression, back flow preventers, and alarms. Other than land ownership, the Federal Government has no jurisdiction over the Museum or the Foundation, neither the Air Force nor NNSA provide services or utility connections to the Museum, and therefore cannot provide construction permitting services to the Foundation.

I understand that the City permitted the current museum facility's construction on NNSA's land in 2008. I request that you continue to provide permitting services for the Foundation, not just for MAC's construction but also for the Museum's intended future facilities and expansions.

If you have any questions relating to NNSA's lease with the Museum Foundation, please feel free to contact me at 505-304-7483, [sarah.watts@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:sarah.watts@nnsa.doe.gov), or [realestate@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:realestate@nnsa.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah J. Watts".

Sarah J. Watts  
Real Estate Contracting Officer