

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIAL MASTER JOSEPH E. CALDWELL**

**TO: ALL CLAIMANTS OF INTEREST IN THE PAJARITO PLATEAU  
HOMESTEADER'S CASE**

Since the close of the deadline for responses on October 31, 2005, two months and one week have passed. During this time, I had hoped to conclude Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law for filing with the Federal Judge. However, as many of you already know, the number and nature of responses I received has required substantially more inquiry, investigation, and work than I originally estimated. For this reason, the anticipated mailing date for my Findings indicated above is now January 20, 2006.

At the time my Final Findings are submitted, the case will essentially be divided into two groups. The first group will involve findings for tracts for which there are no disputes. The second group will be for those in which disputes exist.

After my Findings are complete, a letter will be sent to every class member who filed a response to the preliminary findings. Claimants whose tracts are not disputed will receive: (1) a statement of the amount they are to be awarded; (2) a Disclaimer Form; and (3) reference to a website where the Department of Energy Form SF3881 (REV 01) can be downloaded and printed. These documents will have to be completed as instructed and returned to me so that they can be compiled and submitted to the court, and then to the Department of Energy for payment. Claimants whose tracts are disputed, will receive a timetable for hearings to resolve their claims.

I understand that many of you are anxious to bring this case to a final resolution, and I can assure you that I am also very interested in doing so. I must ask for your patience and understanding as this is a very painstaking process which must be completed in order to avoid any mistakes. No person who has a legitimate claim in this case will be left out.

Most cordially yours and my best wishes in this New Year.