

General

ENTERED



**Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board**  
*A U.S. Department of Energy Site-Specific Advisory Board*  
94 Cities of Gold Road, Santa Fe, NM 87506  
Phone: 505.989.1662 or 1.800.218.5942  
Fax: 505.989.1752 [www.nnmcab.energy.gov](http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov)

April 4, 2012

Mr. Kevin Smith, Manager  
Los Alamos Site Office  
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Mr. Pete Maggioro  
Assistant Manager for Environmental Operations  
Los Alamos Site Office  
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Messrs. Smith and Maggioro,

I am pleased to enclose Recommendation 2012-01, unanimously adopted by the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board at its March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Albuquerque.

Please call Ed Worth, DDFO or Menice Santistevan, Executive Director, if you have questions regarding this recommendation. We look forward to the response from the Department of Energy. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Ralph L. Phelps  
Chair, NNMCAB

Enclosure: a/s

Cc w/encl:  
U. S. Senator Jeff Bingaman  
U.S. Senator Tom Udall  
U. S. Congressman Ben R. Lujan  
Secretary F. David Martin, NMED  
Melissa Nielson, DOE-HQ (via e-mail)  
Catherine Brennan, DFO (via e-mail)  
Ed Worth, DDFO  
Robert Pfaff, LASO/EPO  
John Kieling, NMED ✓  
Rich Mayer, EPA  
Michael Graham, LANS  
Dean Hammons, USACE (via e-mail)  
Menice B. Santistevan, Executive Director  
CAB File



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1                   **NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD**  
2                   **Recommendation to the Department of Energy**  
3                   **No. 2012-01**  
4           **“Fiscal year 2014 Budget Request for Los Alamos National Laboratory**  
5                   **Environmental Management Work”**  
6                   **Carlos Valdez, Primary Author**

7    **Background**

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9    The Order of Consent was signed on March 1, 2005, by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), the  
10 Department of Energy (DOE), and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). In this  
11 document, LANL agreed to a schedule for completion of cleanup at various sites on the LANL grounds.  
12 At the time of signing this agreement, both sides indicated that appropriate cleanup could be completed by  
13 the end of 2015. Headquarters/DOE agreed to provide sufficient funding to the Environment  
14 Management (EM) of LANL to meet the cleanup timeframe. To date, federal funding has not been  
15 sufficient to meet these timeframes.

16  
17 The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was signed into law in February 2009.  
18 The Environment Management (EM) of the DOE received \$6 billion to be used for environmental cleanup  
19 projects. Of this EM funding, LANL received \$212 million for cleanup, the completion of legacy  
20 footprint reduction, and specific Decommission and Demolition of Technical Area 21, and for TRU waste  
21 removal from Technical Area 54. With the ARRA funding fully expended, LANL does not have the  
22 additional funding, above baseline budget, to continue to accelerate the backlog of work, for completion  
23 of clean up by 2015.

24  
25 LANL base budgets have consistently been flat, well below the \$200 million figure. In FY 11, the  
26 operating budget was approximately \$191.8 million. The base budget for FY 12 is expected to be \$188.6  
27 million, a reduction of \$3.2 million. According to the Office of Environmental Management FY 2013  
28 Budget Request, LANL's Base Budget Request is expected to be approximately \$239.1 million. It is  
29 Headquarters/DOE's goal, to dispose of 90% of Legacy TRU waste, and shrink the Legacy footprint to  
30 less than 10% by 2015. However, LANL base budget has remained flat for the last few years. In order  
31 to accomplish this 90% reduction goal, the base budget must be fully funded for the next three years.

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33    **Comments and Observations**

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35 Through the Consent Order, the New Mexico Environment Department is the regulatory oversight agency  
36 monitoring the progress of legacy cleanup at LANL. It is through this Order that EM staff at LANL have  
37 worked tirelessly to meet scheduled milestones in the Consent. As successful as these efforts have been  
38 in the past years, there still remains much more work to accomplish. In an attempt to expedite cleanup,  
39 NMED and DOE/NNSA have implemented a new campaign that is expected to expedite these efforts.  
40 As of October 1, 2011, via the 3706 TRU Waste Campaign Mission, DOE and NMED have committed to  
41 the complete removal of all the non-cemented, above-ground EM Legacy TRU and newly generated TRU  
42 currently stored at Area G, by no later than June 3, 2014. It calls for the removal of 3,706 cubic meters  
43 TRU waste, which is equivalent to 17,000 drums. In order to meet this milestone, full base budget federal  
44 funding is essential to LANL.  
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