General

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Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
A U.S. Department of Energy Site-Specific Advisory Board
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MAY 2013

May 9, 2013

Mr. Juan Griego Acting Manager
Los Alamos Field Office
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

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

Dear Messrs. Griego and Maggiore,

I am pleased to enclose Recommendation 2013-03, unanimously adopted by the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board at its May 8th meeting in Pojoaque.

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

Very truly yours,

Carlos J. Valdez
Chair, NNMCAB

Enclosure: a/s
Cc w/encl:
U. S. Senator Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senator Tom Udall
U. S. Congressman Ben R. Lujan
Secretary F. David Martin, NMED
Melissa Nielson, DOE-HQ (via e-mail)
Cate Alexander, DFO (via e-mail)
Lee Bishop, DDFO
Robert Pfaff, LASO/EPO
John Kieling, NMED
Rich Mayer, EPA
Jeffrey Mousseau, LANS
Dean Hammons, USACE (via e-mail)
Menice B. Santistevan, Executive Director
CAB File

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NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD
Recommendation to the Department of Energy
No. 2013-03
FY 2015 BUDGET PRIORITES
Drafted by: Carlos Valdez

Background

The Order on Consent was signed on March 1, 2005, by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). In this document, LANL agreed to a schedule for completion of cleanup at various sites on the LANL grounds. At the time of signing this agreement, both sides indicated that appropriate cleanup could be completed by the end of 2015. It has been determined that this date may need to be revisited sometime in the upcoming year, due to insufficient funding.

The Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board (NNMCAB) has consistently assisted and supported LANL EM in developing and supporting the clean-up priorities in and around the Laboratory. Due mostly in part to the dangers and risks manifested by the Las Conchas fire, LANL, NMED and DOE/EM met in December 2011, and developed a Framework Agreement that would expedite the removal of above ground TRU waste (3706 Campaign). The 3706 Campaign does not carry the same mandatory responsibilities that the Consent Order does; however, it does realign work efforts from the original plan. Successful completion of this campaign will entail moving most of the activity and TRU volume out of Area G by June 2014, and re-prioritizing other clean-up efforts date, thereby, re-establishing mandatory deadlines while maintaining safety and compliance.

Comments and Observations

Since the establishment of the Framework Agreement in December 2011, LANL has successfully realigned clean-up priorities, and continues to meet all regulatory milestones. Every LANL shipment of TRU waste off Lab property has been record breaking performance, and will undoubtedly be continued again this year. As of January 2013, LANL has shipped over 1,160 cubic meters of waste, with a goal of 1,800 cubic meters by the end of the fiscal year. Although LANL operates under a Continuing Resolution and focuses on the 3,706 Campaign, protection of ground and surface water remains a high priority. There are currently over 200 monitoring wells around the site. With the completion of the 3,706 campaign, the LANL EM staff will be able to focus on other work requirements in the Consent Order.

Site specific advisory boards across the complex have been given the opportunity to participate and provide input into the development of yearly work plans and the formulation of annual budget requests. This recommendation provides DOE EM with the budget priorities that the NNMCAB recommends for consideration.

Recommendation

1. The NNMCAB recommends DOE/EM prioritize the removal of Trenches A-D, Pit 9, and below ground TRU waste in Area G, as one of the top clean-up priorities in FY 2015.
2. The NNMCAB recommends that DOE/EM prioritize the clean-up of the Chromium Plume located in and around LANL property, as one of the top clean-up priorities in FY 2015.
3. The NNMCAB recommends that DOE/EM finish the remaining clean-up efforts of MDA-B in TA-21, so that it is ready to transfer to Los Alamos County.
4. The NNMCAB recommends that any remaining tasks in the Framework Agreement should be addressed as a top priority in FY 2015.
5. The NNMCAB recommends DOE/EM consider the clean-up path forward and eventual remediation of the 33-shafts, as one of the top clean-up priorities in FY 2015.

Intent

It is the intent of the NNMCAB to utilize the opportunity DOE/EM has given to the stakeholders, to have input and participate into formulating budget requests and work priorities.

References

1. "FY 2013 Planning Continuing the Governor's Priorities", December 2012, Peter Maggiore & Jeff Mousseau
2. Compliance Order on Consent, signed March1, 2005
3. Framework Agreement: Realignment of Environmental Priorities, January 2012