

General



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April 10, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Lebak and Mr. Maggiore,

I am pleased to enclose Recommendation 2014-01, unanimously adopted by the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board at its April 9, 2014 meeting in Pojoaque, New Mexico.

Please call M. 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.

Sincerely,

Carlos J. Valdez
Chair, NNM CAB

Enclosure: a/s
Cc w/encl:
U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senator Tom Udall
U.S. Congressman Ben R. Lujan
Secretary Ryan Flynn, NMED
David Borak, DFO (via e-mail)
M. Lee Bishop, DDFO (via e-mail)
Robert Pfaff, LASO/EPO (via e-mail)
John Kieling, NMED
Rich Mayer, EPA
Jeffrey Mousseau, LANS (via e-mail)
Dean Hammonds, USACE (via e-mail)

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NMED
Hazardous Waste Bureau

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Menice B. Santistevan, Executive Director NNM CAB
Darien Cabral, Executive Director RCLC (via e-mail)
Gil L. Vigil, Director Eight Northern Indian Pueblos
NNM CAB File

NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD
Recommendation to the Department of Energy
No. 2014-01
FY 2016 BUDGET PRIORITIES
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 since been determined by all parties that insufficient funding has put this timeline at risk, and the deadline will not be met. NMED has granted over 90 deadline extensions.

The Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board (NNMCAB) has consistently assisted and supported LANL Environmental Management (EM) in developing 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 Transuranic (TRU) Waste (3706 Campaign). The 3706 Campaign does not carry the same mandatory responsibilities that the Consent Order carries; however, it does realign work efforts from the original plan. Successful completion of this campaign will entail moving most of the above-ground activity and TRU volume out of Area G by the end of June 2014, and reprioritizes other clean-up efforts.

Comments and Observations

Since the roll-out of the Framework Agreement on January 5th, 2012, LANL has successfully realigned clean-up priorities, and continues to meet all regulatory milestones within budget constraints. To date, the LANL shipment of TRU waste off Laboratory property has been a record breaking performance. In spite of the salt truck fire and radiation leak at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, LANL remains on target for the successful completion of the 3706 Campaign. Once this has been accomplished, LANL, DOE, and NMED will meet to develop the next logical campaign that should guide clean-up efforts in 2015 and 2016.

The Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board was asked to participate and provide input into the development of yearly work plans and the formulation of annual budget requests that prioritized clean-up efforts in 2015 (see Recommendation 2013-03). This recommendation provides DOE EM with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budget priorities that the NNMCAB recommends for consideration.

1 **Recommendation**

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- 3 1. The NNM CAB recommends DOE/EM provide the Board with a detailed analysis of what
4 deliverables remain to be completed in the Order on Consent in FY 2016.
- 5 2. The NNM CAB recommends DOE/EM address possible future short-term campaigns and
6 update the NNM CAB with options being considered for FY 2016.
- 7 3. The NNM CAB recommends that DOE/EM focus on water quality, to include the
8 Chromium/Perchlorate Plume located in and around LANL property, as one of the top
9 clean-up priorities in FY 2016.
- 10 4. The NNM CAB recommends that DOE/EM work with the Bureau of Reclamation on
11 monitoring surface water and groundwater on the west side of the Rio Grande that could
12 affect the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System Diversion, in FY 2016.
- 13 5. The NNM CAB recommends that DOE/EM focus on all remaining below ground TRU in
14 Area G, to include the 33 Shafts, Trenches A-D, and Pit 9, in FY 2016.
- 15 6. The NNM CAB recommends DOE/EM develop a path forward for the long-term
16 stewardship of TA-21, for possible land transfer to Los Alamos County.
- 17 7. The NNM CAB recommends DOE/EM to provide the Board with the Corrective Measures
18 Evaluation (CME) being considered for TA-49.

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20 **Intent**

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22 It is the intent of the NNM CAB to utilize the opportunity DOE/EM has given to the stakeholders, to
23 have input and participate in formulating budget requests and work priorities.

24

25 **References**

- 26
- 27 1. FY 2014 Waste Management and Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Committee Work
28 Plans
- 29 2. Compliance Order on Consent, signed March 1, 2005
- 30 3. Framework Agreement: Realignment of Environmental Priorities, January 2012
- 31 4. NNM CAB Recommendation 2013-03