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Cobrain, Dave, NMENV

Subject: FW: Press Release: NMCF asked to step down from Intellus NM outreach activities
Importance: High

To: Cobrain, Dave, NMENV
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On Oct 2, 2012, at 2:47 PM, "Skibitski, Thomas, NMENV" <thomas.skibitski@state.nm.us> wrote:

Please see the forwarded press release.

Subject: Press Release: NMCF asked to step down from Intellus NM outreach activities

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Denise Gonzales, 505.820.6860, dgonzales@nmcf.org

New Mexico Community Foundation asked to step down from environmental database outreach activities

Los Alamos National Laboratory taking over responsibilities related to public training and education for Intellus NM

Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 2, 2012 - After eight years of providing public education and outreach related to environmental monitoring information from the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) site, New Mexico Community Foundation (NMCF) has been asked by the Department of Energy to relinquish its responsibility as outreach coordinator and database manager of the Intellus NM Project.

The Department of Energy (DOE) notified NMCF on September 18, 2012 that, due to financial constraints and uncertainties in DOE Environmental Management's budget, NMCF would no longer be funded to provide training, education and outreach to the public on behalf of Intellus NM. Additionally, LANL and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) are currently negotiating the closure of the 2007 Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Final Order, also known as the Chromium Settlement, which required LANL to turn their environmental data over to an



independent manager. The closure of this agreement allows LANL to manage their data without oversight or involvement from a third-party.

Intellus NM is a new, Web-based relational database designed to manage environmental data collected in and around the LANL vicinity. It was launched in April 2012 to replace the original environmental database, RACER. LANL began pursuing the transition to a new environmental database in the fall of 2010 and chose Locus Technologies as their database developers. NMCF was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the new application, and, over the past four years, has extensively documented public input and requests for improvements to the RACER tools. Incorporating public feedback, NMCF developed the Intellus NM scope of work, name and branding.

Despite going live in the spring of 2012, Intellus NM is still a work in progress. A prioritized list of Intellus NM improvements has been submitted to LANL for approval and funding but it is unclear if these improvements will be implemented this federal fiscal year. NMCF supported the transition to Intellus NM because it envisioned the database would provide the community with a more user-friendly, timelier, and more comprehensive point of access to environmental data. Without funding and public input to improve the tool, Intellus NM will remain a database that is cumbersome to navigate and from which data and environmental information are difficult to obtain. Input regarding Intellus NM improvements may be sent to LANL's Intellus Coordinator at intellus@lanl.gov.

Since 2004, when work on creating a consolidated database was first implemented by Colorado State University (CSU) and Risk Assessment Corporation, NMCF has been involved in promoting public access to and understanding of LANL's environmental data. As RACER evolved, it was recognized that if the project was to endure upon completion it must be managed by a local and independent organization. With the project nearing completion in the summer of 2009, RACER was formally turned over to NMCF. In accordance with an agreement between RACER's supporting agencies, DOE, LANL and NMED, RACER was to be funded until December 31, 2015. This date was chosen to coincide with the completion of cleanup activities related to the Consent Order, an order signed by NMED and DOE that establishes requirements and a timetable for environmental cleanup at the LANL site.

Both RACER and Intellus NM were founded on the principle that once potentially harmful materials are released into the environment by government or private industry, information gathered to understand their extent and possible impacts becomes public information. NMCF believes that Intellus NM holds great potential to be a more functional and user-friendly tool and to provide a more comprehensive source of environmental data than RACER. However, in order for Intellus NM to be a credible source of information, LANL and NMED need to reaffirm their support for the involvement of a third-party that performs data quality assurances and actively works to defend the principles of transparency and data/information accessibility upon which RACER was founded while building community awareness and promoting meaningful public involvement around available environmental data and the significance of these data to the well-being of the people and places of New Mexico.

In the absence of third-party involvement in this project, as of October 1, 2012, LANL will assume responsibility for public outreach activities related to Intellus NM, including public trainings. Karen Schultz Paige (intellus@lanl.gov), Intellus Coordinator, has been listed as the LANL contact for inquiries and concerns related to Intellus NM. As of November 1, 2012, NMCF will transfer the Intellus NM Project Web site to LANL, after which LANL will be solely responsible for the Web site's content.

With the impending closure of the Chromium Settlement, the continuation of LANL providing environmental data to Intellus NM is no longer protected or guaranteed with the exception of data collected under LANL's Hazardous Waste Permit (HWP), which states in section 1.10.1 "*The Permittees shall provide data from environmental media (i.e., soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater, air and biota) collected under this Permit and incorporated into LANL databases to the public database through updates on a no less than monthly basis.*" However, this section only requires that samples and measurements taken by LANL under the conditions of the HWP be made publicly available. Samples and measurements taken to understand environmental

conditions outside of the scope of this permit, such as sampling efforts performed under the Consent Order, are no longer required by any agreement, order, or permit to be available through Intellus NM. Concerns about the longevity of Intellus NM and the data it is required to contain should be directed to the New Mexico Environment Department's Office of the Secretary.

While NMCF is disappointed to be leaving the project under current circumstances, we are proud of our achievements during the eight years we have been involved in the RACER/Intellus NM Project. NMCF was at the forefront of working with LANL and NMED Oversight Bureau to establish consistency and completeness for key aspects of environmental data such as units, chemical and radionuclide nomenclature, and location names and coordinates, which were critical to ensuring data comprehension. NMCF coordinated the first audit of the RACER database and successfully identified several major issues, such as the inconsistent adherence to detection status and data usage assignment rules by LANL. The results of the audit have been used to further improve the unified data format required by Intellus NM. While serving as the RACER database manager, NMCF engaged in public outreach and education. In addition to hosting numerous RACER trainings and workshops since 2008, in 2011, NMCF created the Forum for Environmental Education and Dialogue (FEED) which was attended by over one-hundred and forty participants. FEED was created to provide an ongoing community discussion that invited active dialogue on topics concerning LANL's environmental monitoring and remediation activities.

Over the course of more than a decade, the ideas and design of RACER and Intellus NM involved many organizations, professionals, and community members who all helped to shape the way the data are available and accessible today. Throughout the project, important lessons have been learned about inter-organizational communication and collaboration, community outreach and the public process - in essence, the factors that are needed to provide transparency between operators of a facility that release potentially harmful materials to the environment and the people who live in its surrounding communities. Intellus NM is an important step in setting a new standard for accountability and transparency for industry and government throughout the country - one that must be protected to ensure its longevity in this and future generations.

Throughout the transition to Intellus NM, NMCF's ultimate vision for the project remains the same. We envision that through Intellus NM, New Mexicans will have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about the environmental factors affecting their lives.

About New Mexico Community Foundation (www.nmcf.org)

As an endowment-building and grant-making organization, New Mexico Community Foundation serves and invests in New Mexico's people, communities and environment. With partners in every county, we promote philanthropy as a tool for building community assets, relationships, self-reliance, and community involvement in decision making. Working together, we maximize resources to meet the unique needs of New Mexicans today and create lasting change for tomorrow.

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New Mexico Community Foundation · 502 W Cordova, STE 1 · Santa Fe · NM · 87505

Cobrain, Dave, NMENV

From: Winchester, Jim, NMENV
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2012 9:25 AM
To: Martin, David, NMENV; Tongate, Butch, NMENV; Flynn, Ryan, NMENV; Davis, Jim, NMENV; De Saillan, Charles, NMENV; Skibitski, Thomas, NMENV; Cobrain, Dave, NMENV; Winchester, Jim, NMENV
Subject: LANL Proposed News Release: Intellus

FYI.... Will go out soon, if it hasn't already.

We haven't rec'd any media inquiries, and will be referring any media calls back to LANL and DOE.

Thanks!

--jim

Jim Winchester
Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department &
Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department
505.231.8800 (Cell Direct)
jim.winchester@state.nm.us

From: Chiri, Toni K. [mailto:Toni.Chiri@nnsa.doe.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 1:44 PM
To: Winchester, Jim, NMENV
Subject: FW: FAST TURNAROUND REQUESTED: Please review news release

Jim,
FYI – this is going through review process here- announcing transfer of Intellus responsibility to LANL from Community Foundation, which is issuing its own release this afternoon.

From: Chiri, Toni K.
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 1:41 PM
To: Smith, Kevin W. (LASO)
Cc: 'Curran, Colleen'; Woehrle, Patrick D; Maggiore, Peter; Rhodes, David; Griego, Juan
Subject: RE: FAST TURNAROUND REQUESTED: Please review news release

Kevin,
Please review news release – announcing transfer of Intellus responsibility to LANL from Community Foundation, which is issuing its own release this afternoon.

Thx
toni

Los Alamos National Laboratory to take on environmental database outreach activities

Responsibilities include training sessions, public information activities

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, October 2, 2012— On Monday, October 1, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) assumed responsibility for coordinating public outreach activities related to the Intellus New Mexico environmental database.

The activities will include training sessions on how to use the database, which contains all of the Laboratory's environmental data and is viewable by the public. Outreach activities will also include maintenance of the website, as well as public announcements about database improvements and updates.

The New Mexico Community Foundation coordinated these activities while the database was under development and for the first six months after it was launched in April 2012. The foundation's involvement with Intellus NM, as well as its predecessor database RACER, began in 2004, when the organization agreed to serve as an independent administrator on a project to set up a comprehensive set of Laboratory environmental data that could be readily accessible to the public.

"New Mexico Community Foundation's leadership on this project helped establish a new level of accountability and transparency for a federal government facility," said Pete Maggiore, assistant manager of the Environmental Projects Office for the National Nuclear Security Administration's Los Alamos Site Office. "The Department of Energy is very grateful for the foundation's close involvement in developing such a comprehensive point of access to the entire history of the Laboratory's environmental data."

"However," said Maggiore, "the Department of Energy is currently unable to continue to fund the New Mexico Community Foundation to act in this independent capacity with regard to the Intellus NM database. Under current Congressional funding levels Los Alamos National Laboratory, priority must be given to transuranic waste disposition and the protection of groundwater and surface waters to ensure public health and safety."

The Intellus NM database displays the same internal data that regulatory agencies and Los Alamos scientists see and use for environmental analysis and monitoring of the Laboratory site. The new system moved to a "cloud" environment earlier this year. It contains more than 9 million records, including historical data as well as a near-real-time view of ongoing data collection activities. Intellus NM features improvements over the RACER database, including an improved user interface and more ways to view and sort data.

LANL monitors the surrounding environment to ensure that its workers are protecting the environment while performing the Laboratory's national security work, and to comply with environmental requirements and standards mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the New Mexico Environment Department, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

LANL and regulatory agencies survey the air, soil, sediment, groundwater, and surface water around the Laboratory to make sure contaminants from these operations are not posing problems to workers or the public.

Intellus NM contains the results of environmental investigation and monitoring activities, including:

- Air quality sampling

- Soil and sediment testing
- Groundwater and surface water monitoring
- Examining plants, animals, and locally grown produce

“New Mexico Community Foundation helped move this data to ‘the cloud,’ which has made the system more secure and reliable. The foundation helped us take advantage of new technology and got us to a place where the data is uploaded automatically, without any delay,” said Michael Brandt, associate director of the Laboratory’s Environment, Safety, and Health organization.

More details about the Intellus database, as well as a link to the database itself, can be found at www.intellusnm.com.

From: Curran, Colleen [mailto:colleen_curran@lanl.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 12:14 PM
To: Woehle, Patrick D; Chiri, Toni K.; Maggiore, Peter
Cc: Paige, Karen Schultz; Dorries, Alison M; Echohawk, Chris; Rhodes, David
Subject: FAST TURNAROUND REQUESTED: Please review news release

This news release is about transitioning Intellus NM database activities from the New Mexico Community Foundation to LANL.

Apparently, the foundation is going to issue their companion news release at 3 p.m. today.

Could you please look this over and let me know if there are any issues? Pete, David Rhodes and I wrote the quotes for you so if you’d like to change anything, that is no problem.

It has been approved by SME Karen Schultz-Paige, Allison Dorries, and David Rhodes.

Thanks much,

Colleen

COLLEEN CURRAN
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Los Alamos National Laboratory
505-664-0344 (Office) | 505-695-6167 (Mobile)