



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**



What Does 'Risk' Mean in Environmental Remediation?

Briefing to Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board

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The word 'risk' can mean different things in relation to an Environmental Remediation program, depending on the context of its use.





Human Health Risk and Ecological Risk

- Risks to people and the environment due to the presence, depth, nature and amount of hazardous waste or contaminants at a site
- Assessed to determine whether and how much cleanup is required
- Assessed following remediation to determine if risk-based cleanup goals are met

Radiological Risk

- Risks to people from radiological materials at a site
- Parallel but different process for assessment





Political/Perception Risk

- Failure to adequately embrace the values and priorities that matter to stakeholders

Programmatic Risk

- Unknowns that create uncertainties in total program size, cost and duration





Safety and Health Risks

- Risks to workers, risks to the public, and transportation accident risks in the conduct of any given remediation project and approach

Project Risk

- Unplanned event or unanticipated condition that impacts project cost or schedule

Enterprise Risk

- An occurrence that has significant consequence to the program, the contractor, or DOE





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Questions



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