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March 30, 2015

Ms. Christine Gelles
Acting EM-LA Office Manager
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Ms. Gelles,

I am pleased to enclose Recommendations 2015-01 and 2015-02, approved by the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board at its March 11, 2015 Combined Committee meeting in Pojoaque, New Mexico.

Please call Lee Bishop, Co-DDFO, Michael Gardipe, Co-DDFO, or Menice Santistevan, Executive Director, if you have questions regarding these recommendations. We look forward to the response from the Department of Energy.

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Sayre
Chair, NNM CAB

Enclosure: a/s

Cc w/encl:

U. S. Senator Tom Udall
U. S. Senator Martin Heinrich
U. S. Congressman Ben R. Lujan
Secretary Ryan Flynn, NMED
David Borak, DFO (via e-mail)
M. Lee Bishop, Co-DDFO (via e-mail)
Michael Gardipe, Co-DDFO (via e-mail)
George Henckel, DOE/EPO (via e-mail)
Jeff Kendall, NMED
Rich Mayer, EPA
Randy Erickson (via e-mail)
Dean Hammonds, USACE (via e-mail)
Menice B. Santistevan, Executive Director NNM CAB
Andrea Romero, RCLC Executive Director (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. 2015-02
Title: Budget Priorities for FY 2016 for LANL EM Cleanup Work
Drafted by: Carlos Valdez

Background

The Order of Consent (CO) 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).(1) In this document, LANL agreed to a schedule for completion of cleanup at various sites on the LANL grounds by December 15, 2015. Since then, LANL has worked diligently to meet the deadlines and milestones established in the CO. For various reasons, there is cleanup work that will not be completed by that deadline. A revised schedule will need to be established for completing the work that will not be completed by the December 2015 deadline.

The Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) has recommended, on a yearly basis, what we determine are the top clean up priorities for each fiscal year. This recommendation is in line with that responsibility for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

Comments and Observations

LANL's 3706 Campaign was over 90% complete in February 2014 and was well on its way to successfully meeting the June 30, 2014 completion date when two incidents happened at WIPP. The first incident was a truck fire in the mine and the second was the rupture of a drum in Panel 7. These two incidents resulted in a complete cessation of waste disposal at WIPP and brought the 3706 Campaign to a halt. (2). All evidence points to the ruptured drum being a LANL drum. The reasons for the 3706 Campaign and removal of transuranic waste (TRU waste) from LANL in a timely manner remain. In addition, there are several additional serious waste issues that need to be addressed as priorities in 2016.

The New Mexico Environment Department has granted several extensions on clean up milestones that are included in the CO; however, there are several efforts (campaigns) that will run well past the December 2015 deadline. This recommendation is the NNMCAB's effort at addressing what it has determined LANL should focus cleanup efforts on in FY 2016.

Recommendation

The NNMCAB recommends that DOE/LANL:

1. Concentrate efforts on resuming and completing the Framework Agreement and removing all remaining above-ground, non-cemented TRU waste as a top priority with the FY 2016 budget.
2. Continue the chromium/perchlorate groundwater contamination removal as a top priority with the FY 2016 budget.
3. Concentrate on groundwater and surface water monitoring as a top priority with the FY 2016 budget.

- 1 4. Begin (if not already in motion) the process of disposition of below-ground TRU in Area
- 2 G. This should include but not be limited to the 33-shafts, Pit 9, Trenches A-D, and the Hot
- 3 Cell Liners as a top priority with the FY 2016 budget.
- 4 5. Remediate MDA's: H, C, G, L, A, T, and AB as a top priority with the FY 2016 budget.

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6 **Intent**

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8 It is the intent of the of this recommendation that the NNMCAB have input into developing the budget
9 priorities for FY 2016, in order to assist in the completion of clean up scope on the CO requirements.

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12 **References**

- 13
- 14 1. Compliance Order on Consent, signed March 1, 2005
- 15 2. LANL TRU Waste Status, Lee Bishop, July 9, 2014
- 16 3. Recommendation 2014-01 "FY 2016 Budget Priorities"