

**NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD (NNMCAB)  
Recommendation to the Department of Energy  
Waste Management Committee**

**No. 2008-05**

**Recommendation to DOE to Develop a Simple Project Status Reporting Format for  
Environmental Projects Under the Consent Order that Can be Used by NNMCAB and  
LANL for Public Communications**

**Background**

In response to one of our requests for project status, the Department of Energy (DOE) management has provided NNMCAB with an example of "LANL 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Project Review." This appears to be a standard report known as the "QPR" which the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) uses to status DOE. This report, a page of which is attached, appears to be targeted at high level, consolidated projects with very high-level budget and monetary risk information. The "Earned Value" chart cannot be related to any Consent Order deliverable.

The NNMCAB is grateful to receive this information, but it is not really helpful in our work to understand and communicate with the public on the actual status of work performed (either planning, characterization or actual restoration activities) at LANL. It also does not help us achieve one of our top three priorities for 2008, which is to promote DOE funding of the LANL environmental work at the full baseline level, since we cannot relate the earned values to Consent Order deliverables.

We briefly discussed this unavailability of "simple" reports at the April, 2008 Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chair's meeting, and the other sites appeared to have similar concerns about this information. It also appeared that the NNMCAB were the only ones aware of the QPRs.

**Comment**

The NNMCAB does not make recommendations for specific reports and their content. LANL management has this responsibility. The purpose for this recommendation is to explain how a simplified report that clearly relates progress by environmental projects on Consent Order deliverables can help the NNMCAB. This type of report will help NNMCAB communicate with the public on environmental work at LANL and help the NNMCAB support full funding of the baseline budget.

**Recommendation**

1. The NNMCAB recommends that DOE support and encourage LANL Environmental Restoration Division management to evaluate the merits of a

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- periodic simplified report that can be made available to the NNMCAB and the public which would:
- a. Relate environmental restoration projects' schedules and milestones to New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Consent Order deliverables;
  - b. provide simplified status of earned value (that is, actual work performed vs. schedule and budget) against the deliverables for that project;
  - c. provide a risk/consequence assessment of project status.
2. The NNMCAB recommends that DOE encourage LANL management to evaluate the benefits of using such a simplified report in conjunction with the mission of a Regulatory Support group which has also been recommended for consideration by DOE and LANL management in NNMCAB Recommendation No. 2008-02.

**Intent**

The intent of this recommendation is to support an evaluation of what may be considered an effective management practice by LANL management to enhance communication of information to the NNMCAB and thus the public sector. It appears to NNMCAB that a simple reporting tool as recommended herein would be of value in our monitoring of Consent Order deliverables and accordingly in our goal to maintain an informed interface with NMED management. It would also be of value in our support of funding to the baseline budget level.

**Effect**

Implementation of this recommendation would result in the LANL Environmental Restoration Division having a simplified periodic earned value report for Consent Order deliverables, which could serve as a Best Management Practice (BMP) example for the other DOE environmental restoration sites. This reporting structure can also enhance public communication where appropriate.

**References**

1. LANL Handout: VL-LANL-0013, page 2.