



**Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board**  
*A U.S. Department of Energy Site-Specific Advisory Board*  
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August 1, 2013

Geoffrey Beausoleil, Acting Site Manager  
Los Alamos Field Office  
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

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

Dear Messrs. Beausoleil and Maggiore,

I am pleased to enclose Recommendations 2013-08 and 2013-09, which were unanimously adopted by the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board at its meeting held July 31<sup>st</sup> in Los Alamos.

Please call 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.

Very truly yours,

Carlos J. Valdez  
Chair, NNMCAB

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  
Cate Alexander, DFO (via e-mail)  
Lee Bishop, DDFO  
Robert Pfaff, LASO/EPO  
John Kieling, NMED  
Rich Mayer, EPA  
Jeffrey Mousseau, LANS  
Dean Hammons, USACE (via e-mail)  
Menice B. Santistevan, Executive Director  
CAB File

NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD (NNMCAB)  
Recommendation to the Department of Energy  
No. 2013-09  
Recommendation for LANL Clean-up  
Authored by Carlos Valdez

### **Background**

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has several areas and levels of responsibility. For example, they are instrumental in scientific inquiry: regarding nuclear deterrence, national security, reducing global threats, fostering energy security, health research and development, and environmental management, to name just a few. LANL's annual budget is just over \$2.1 billion, and the EM budget is between \$188 and \$212 million annually.

The protection of human health and the environment from legacy hazardous and mixed waste produced by past LANL operations should be the top priority for LANL, as well as the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB). To date, clean-up efforts, as they relate to Legacy and Cold War efforts in and around LANL, have been on time and within budget, due mainly to deadline extensions granted by NMED. The current focus of clean-up is the 3706 Campaign, which is on track to be completed by the summer of 2014.

### **Observations and Comments**

Over the past several years, the federal government has made several budget cuts to programs around the country. In addition, it also continues to operate under "continuing resolution" and other "sequestration" conditions. This has slowed the progress of clean-up efforts around the country; LANL included, and has put sites at jeopardy of not meeting regulatory deadlines.

- The inability to meet regulatory deadlines in the investigation and cleanup of legacy waste sites enhances the probability that regulatory agencies will impose large fines, which then diverts crucial funding from actual clean-up efforts.
- Operating under these continuing resolutions and sequestration conditions increases the risk to human health and safety and to the environment as a whole. This also presents the possibility of using clean-up funds to pay fines.
- Clean-up funding should have special dispensation from federal budget cuts, sequestration and continuing resolution, when it lowers the level of funding needed to meet regulatory deadlines. EM funding should be held harmless when these conditions are present.

### **Recommendation**

This Board recommends to DOE that all EM funding for LANL should be held harmless as it relates to across the board cut-backs in federal programs, operating under Continuing Resolutions and Sequestration. Federal budget cuts should not include funding for remediation or clean-up.

### **Intent**

It is the intent of this Board to make every possible effort to protect and secure the best possible funding scenario of EM budgets to ensure clean-up efforts are not slowed or put in jeopardy.