

Final Approved 9-30-09
NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD (NNMCAB)
Environmental Monitoring, Surveillance and Remediation Committee

Recommendation to the Department of Energy
No. 2009-12

Recommendation to Hold a Planned DOE-EM Meeting on LANL Water Quality Programs in a Northern New Mexico Location

Background

The Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board (NNMCAB) has been informed that DOE intends to hold a special meeting with Mr. Robert Gilkeson as an invited speaker, to discuss concerns he has raised regarding the monitoring wells and the water quality program in use by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to meet the NMED Consent Order requirements for the environmental restoration of legacy waste sites at LANL. We have been informed that DOE experts will be invited and that the meeting will be held in the Washington, DC offices of DOE. The NNMCAB has previously provided recommendations to DOE requesting independent reviews of the Groundwater Monitoring Program in use at LANL (References 1 and 2). DOE's responses have been to decline such a review.

Recommendation:

The NNMCAB recommends that DOE-EM open the special meeting with Mr. Gilkeson to the public and change the location for the meeting to one of the Northern New Mexico communities, such as Los Alamos or Espanola.

Desired Outcome

The issue of groundwater monitoring is of great importance to the citizens of Northern New Mexico. By relocating this meeting and opening it to the public, DOE will:

1. Maintain transparency in DOE actions;
2. Allow members of the local community to express their views; and
3. Maintain good relations with all groups involved in LANL environmental restoration.

References

1. Recommendation 2007-03, Recommendation for a Groundwater Panel at LANL.
2. Recommendation 2009-03, Recommendation for Consideration of Suggestions Contained in the Kerr Lab Report.