

NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

Recommendation to the Department of Energy

No. 2010-06

**Recommendation of Budget Priorities for FY 12 and Baseline Change Proposal with
Future Budgets at LANL**

Drafted by the Ad Hoc Committee for Budget Priorities

Background:

The Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board (NNMCAB) appreciates the opportunity to work with the Los Alamos Site Office (LASO) during the development process for the FY'12 EM budget and the current Baseline Change Proposal (BCP) to accomplish cleanup activities in accordance with the DOE Certified Environmental Management (EM) Baseline and the Consent Order with the NMED. We are asked by EM Headquarters to provide our input to LASO on our priorities for activities in the cleanup of legacy waste at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

Comments and Observations:

The NNMCAB has reviewed the list of priority elements being considered by LASO for inclusion in the BCP and future EM budgets for LANL. We have developed what we consider to be priority recommendations for the NNMCAB and the citizens of Northern New Mexico.

Recommendations:

No. 1. The NNMCAB recommends that DOE maintain a high priority for expedited disposition of TRU waste in TA-54 and for the closure of waste management facilities in TA-54. We also recognize that considerable additional resources will need to be directed toward the disposition of the 33 remote handled shafts in MDA-G.

No. 2. The NNMCAB recommends that DOE expedite the characterization and evaluation of contaminant migration of legacy wastes from LANL facilities so that reliable and cost-effective remedial alternatives may be developed and implemented in a timely manner. Areas with remaining uncertainty in their characterization, which require additional study include TA-54, TA-21, TA-16 and other areas where closure is to take place in the near term.

No. 3. The NNMCAB recommends that LASO implement Interim Measures at MDA-G and MDA-L using soil vapor extraction (SVE) to extract source volatile organic constituents (VOC) from the subsurface to reduce the potential for further migration to groundwater and the atmosphere.

No. 4. The NNMCAB recommends that LASO continue the decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of buildings and tanks in TA-21 so the subsurface contamination may be characterized and a remedial action plan may be developed for the subsurface.

No. 5. The NNMCAB recommends that LASO prepare and implement a pro-active intensive public communication plan to inform all stakeholders of the legacy waste conditions at LANL

and what actions are being considered for remediation and closure of legacy waste facilities. LASO should present these matters to school students and to the public from multiple perspectives and viewpoints so the actions may be understood by one and all. LASO should consider and use innovative communication tools to provide transparency of actions at LANL. The objective of this intensive and pro-active public communication program should be to reach and engage members of the public so they may have confidence and trust in the actions being taken on their behalf and at taxpayer cost to clean up the legacy waste at LANL.

No. 6. The NNMCAB recommends that LASO implement cost-effective and reliable clean up remedies on a site by site basis as the opportunities become available. Interim measures may contribute to the early cleanup of some facilities where the long-term “final remedy” may take longer to consider and implement.

Intent:

The intent of this recommendation is to provide LASO with the priorities, which the NNMCAB believes are important to the citizens of Northern New Mexico in the large program to clean up the legacy waste at LANL.

Effect:

The effect of implementing these recommendations and addressing these priorities for future funding will improve the trust and confidence of the citizens of Northern New Mexico in the actions being taken in the large long-term effort to clean up the legacy waste at LANL.