



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
A U.S. Department of Energy Site-Specific Advisory Board
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March 26, 2013

Mr. Juan Griego Acting Manager
Los Alamos Field Office
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Los Alamos, NM 87544

Mr. Pete Maggiore
Assistant Manager for Environmental Operations
Los Alamos Field Office
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
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Dear Messrs. Griego and Maggiore,

I am pleased to enclose Recommendation 2013-02, unanimously adopted by the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board at its March 20th meeting in Albuquerque.

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 F. David Martin, NMED
Melissa Nielson, DOE-HQ (via e-mail)
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

1 **NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD (NNMCAB)**
2 **Waste Management Committee**
3 **Recommendation to the Department of Energy**
4 **No. 2013-02**

5 **Recommendation to Review Material Disposal Areas at LANL in Addition to Technical Area 54 (TA-54)**
6 **for Risks Associated With Fires**

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9 **Background**

10 NNMCAB Recommendation 2011-09 of July 27, 2011 recommended a new urgency for increased TRU
11 shipments from MDA G as a result of the concerns from the Las Conchas fire. This recommendation, as
12 well as encouragement from the Governor of New Mexico, led to establishment of the "3706 Campaign"
13 by LANL to expedite the removal of the above ground TRU waste and shipment to WIPP by June, 2014 in
14 order to reduce the risk to the public around Los Alamos and White Rock.

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16 **Discussion**

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18 The very visible waste storage buildings at MDA G are a public symbol for the priority assigned to the
19 3706 Campaign. But the threat posed by a fast moving wild fire may pose different radiological
20 consequences for other Material Disposal Areas around the LANL complex. Uncontrolled fire may create
21 the potential for airborne movement of contaminants. Surface water effects, either from firefighting or
22 from post-fire flooding, may also result in contaminant movements.

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24 **Recommendation**

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26 1. DOE should ensure that LANL compiles a review of all MDAs that have hazardous and radiological
27 contaminants to establish whether specific mitigation measures should be instituted to prioritize
28 removal of these contaminants. This review should focus on vulnerabilities associated with wild fires.
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30 2. If any MDA is identified as high risk for wild fire, LANL should ensure that appropriate mitigating
31 measures have been put in place until longer range priorities are established to remove the material or
32 to reduce the risk.

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34 **Intent**

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36 The intent of this Recommendation 2013-02 is to ensure that the appropriate level of review has been
37 given to MDAs other than MDA G at LANL that may be at similar risk in the event of wild fires.

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39 **Effect**

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41 The effect of implementing this recommendation is to increase public confidence that LANL has
42 performed a comprehensive review of the risks from wild fires associated with MDAs having radiological
43 contaminants and that LANL has prioritized these MDAs to reduce radiological risks to the public from
44 wild fires.

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46 **Reference:**

- 47 1. NNMCAB Recommendation 2011-09, "New Urgency for Increased TRU Shipments from MDA G"
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