



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Los Alamos Site Office  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



NOV 10 2008

Mr. Ralph L. Phelps  
Chairman  
Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board  
1660 Old Provo Trail, Suite B  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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RECEIVED  
11/10/08

Dear Mr. Phelps:

Reference:

- 1.) Contract Number DE-AC32-06NA25396, Los Alamos National Security, LLC and the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration

Subject: Los Alamos Site Office Response to Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board recommendation 2009-04 - *"Priorities for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Stimulus Funding for Environmental Cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory"*

The Department of Energy's Los Alamos Site Office (LASO) has reviewed the Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board recommendation 2009-04 - *"Priorities for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Stimulus Funding for Environmental Cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory"*. LASO response to this recommendation is provided in the enclosure.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may call Everett Trollinger at (505) 667-0281, or George Rael at (505) 606-0397.

Sincerely,

  
George J. Rael

Manager  
Environmental Projects Office 

EP-24GR-206712

Enclosure

cc:

E. Trollinger, ARRA, LASO  
L. Bishop, EPO, LASO  
E. Worth, EPO, LASO  
J. Casalino, EPO, LASO  
E. Trollinger, EPO, LASO  
Records Center, LASO  
Official Contract File, LASO

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **Recommendation No. 2009-04**

#### **Priorities for ARRA Stimulus Funding for Environmental Cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory**

##### **Recommendation**

1. The NNM CAB recommends that LASO utilize available ARRA funding to ensure adequate training of workers and monitoring of site conditions to provide the public with information demonstrating safe conditions for workers and the public during the proposed cleanup operations at TA-21.
2. The NNM CAB recommends and agrees with the priorities developed by LASO for the removal of buildings and facilities at TA-21 and the excavation and removal of legacy waste remnants from MDA B as an initial use for the majority of the ARRA funding for LANL.
3. The NNM CAB further recommends that LASO show immediate and excellent progress in the beneficial use of available ARRA funding so LASO and the NNM CAB may recommend to the DOE Office of Environmental Management that LANL is deserving of additional ARRA funding to further accelerate the cleanup of legacy waste at our site.

##### **Response**

###### **Training of workers**

The DOE Los Alamos Site Office completely agrees that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides excellent opportunities for environmental cleanup and economic opportunity in Northern New Mexico.

While separate worker training programs are not in and of themselves part of the work scope approved under the Recovery Act, LANL and each subcontractor are required to provide adequate and specific training for all new employees. This training emphasizes safety and readiness procedures that not only ensure worker but public safety.

LANL expects to create or save at least 300 Recovery Act-related jobs between now and the end of Fiscal Year 2011.

The training received by these employees will be applicable to future DOE cleanup work not only in Los Alamos but across the DOE complex.

###### **Priorities**

LASO appreciates the support and recommendations provided by the CAB during the selection of projects for Recovery Act work. Through participation by the CAB and

other stakeholders, LASO and LANL have begun a series of projects that will save and create jobs, reduce LANL's footprint, clean up the environment, and ensure compliance with the New Mexico Compliance Order on Consent.

#### **Immediate and excellent progress**

DOE released \$212 million to LANL on July 22, 2009. In little more than one month, LANL has:

- saved or created nearly 100 jobs
- completed three phases of direct push soil sampling at MDA B (45 locations)
- completed demolition of the first two structures to be demolished at TA-21
- nearing completion of equipment removal from the Tritium Systems and Test Assembly (TSTA) building at TA-21
- awarded a \$100 million-capacity master task order agreement (MTOA) to four small businesses—three from Northern New Mexico—for remedial actions and demolition and decommissioning work at TA-21
- issued an RFP for a \$100 million capacity MTOA for waste disposal

LASO and LANS have implemented the CAB's recommendation by reporting on this progress in:

- weekly reports to DOE headquarters,
- the first two in a series of public meetings,
- interactions with governments including tribal governments,
- and before the New Mexico legislature's interim Committee on Hazardous and Radioactive Waste.

LANL has also begun issuing "Recovery Act News Flashes" to stakeholders on the Lab's environmental documents mailing list.

We appreciate any feedback, assistance, or constructive criticism from the NNM CAB with regard to Recovery Act work. We are optimistic that excellent performance during the early stages of the cleanup will lead to additional Recovery Act funding, and we welcome further input on possible uses.