



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
JUL 17 2012



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

Dear Mr. Phelps:

Subject: Department of Energy response to Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation No. 2011-04 "Achieving 2005 Consent Order Milestones in the Next Four Year"

The Los Alamos Site Office thanks the Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board for its continued support for funding of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) environmental cleanup activities and agrees with the importance of optimizing, prioritizing and creating efficiencies in the work necessary to meet Consent Order requirements, including those related to groundwater monitoring.

The Los Alamos Site Office believes both items in Recommendation No. 2011-03 have been addressed through the issuance of the January 5, 2012, Framework Agreement between the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), which establishes an action-oriented approach that realigns environmental priorities and makes optimum use of available resources.

In the Framework Agreement, DOE/NNSA and NMED agreed on a number of actions to carry out remediation actions in a more cost effective and efficient way, that still provides full protection of human health and the environment and takes advantage of lessons learned both from previous work performed at LANL and nationally.

The New Mexico Environmental Department has also granted LANL requests for deadline extensions on lower-priority activities.

These activities support the CAB's recommendation to strive to define new intermediate milestones and work plans (using risk based planning), and to work with NMED to arrive at the highest-priority tasks and milestones.

Peter Maggiore
Assistant Manager
Environmental Projects Office

Enclosure
NNMCAB Recommendation No. 2011-04

cc w/enclosure:

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