



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



**JUL 24 2012**

Mr. Ralph L. Phelps, Chairman  
Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board  
94 Cities of Gold Road  
Santa Fe, NM 87506

Dear Mr. Phelps:

Subject: Department of Energy Response to Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation No. 2011-07 "Maximum Utilization of Waste Isolation Pilot Plant by Increasing Material Disposal Area G Transuranic Shipments"

The Los Alamos Site Office wants to thank the Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board (NNMCAB) for its continued support for full funding of environmental remediation activities at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

The Los Alamos Site Office believes this recommendation has been addressed by the January 5, 2012 Framework Agreement between the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration and the New Mexico Environment Department.

Although the Congressional appropriation for Fiscal Year 2012 remained at \$185 million, the Framework Agreement resulted in a realignment of priorities that enabled an acceleration of LANL's Transuranic (TRU) waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

Los Alamos National Laboratory is currently ahead of schedule for TRU waste disposition in Fiscal Year 2012, and is on track to achieve a fourth record year for the number of shipments to WIPP. In addition, LANL is currently WIPP's second-largest source of TRU waste shipments.

Peter Maggiore  
Assistant Manager  
Environmental Projects Office

Enclosure: Recommendation No. 2011-07

cc w/enclosure:

M. Bishop, EPO, LASO

E. Worth, EPO, LASO,

M. Santistevan, EPO, PT&C

M. Graham, ADEP, LANS, MS-M991

Records Center, LASO

Official Contract File, LASO

EPO-32EW-353-452219

**NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD  
Recommendation to the Department of Energy**

**No. 2011-07**

**“Maximum Utilization of WIPP by Increasing MDA G TRU Shipments”**

**Drafted by the NNMCAB Executive Committee**

**Primary Author: Ralph Phelps**

**Background:**

The Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB or CAB) has recently become aware that planned shipments of Transuranic (TRU) Waste from such sites as the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Site for 2011 have been curtailed. In a recent Recommendation (No. 2011-02, “Accelerate TRU Waste Shipments from Area G to WIPP”), the NNMCAB recommended that DOE consider accelerating the movement of TRU Waste from Material Disposal Area G (MDA-G).

**Comments and Observations:**

The EM Complex-Wide goal is to complete disposition of 90% of the legacy transuranic waste by the end of 2015. This goal directly supports the NMED-LANL Consent Order clean-up deadline of 2015.

**Recommendation:**

**No. 1.** DOE/HQ should provide resources and funding to LANL to allow the increase shipments of TRU Waste from MDA-G to WIPP to make up for the shortfall created from the reduction of shipments of TRU Waste.

**Intent:**

The intent of this recommendation is to ensure optimization of WIPP shipment schedules while helping to keep commitments to Consent Order milestones at MDA-G.

**References:**

1. NNMCAB Recommendation 2011-02, “Accelerate TRU Waste Shipments from Area G to WIPP”.
2. New Mexico Order on Consent, March 2005.
3. Office of EM Update – SSAB June 15, 2011, S. Olinger.
4. 2011 Spring National TRU Corporate Boards in Las Vegas, Nevada.