



**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA)  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

**MAY 28 2015**

Mr. Douglas Sayre  
Chair  
Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board  
94 Cities of Gold Road  
Santa Fe, NM 87506

Dear Mr. Sayre:

References:

1. NNM CAB letter to C. Gelles, EM-LA, from D. Sayre, NNM CAB, Subject: "Recommendation No. 2015-03, Supplemental Environmental Projects," dated April 10, 2015 (COR-EPO-4.17.2015-622720)

Thank you for submitting Recommendation No. 2015-03, "Supplemental Environmental Projects."

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) acknowledges the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board's (NNMCAB) recommendations to pursue Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) in lieu of any fines and penalties issued by New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) related to the failure of a drum of transuranic (TRU) waste processed at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

On April 30, 2015, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez and DOE Secretary Ernest Moniz released the terms of a settlement of the state's claims against DOE and its contractors related to the February 2014 incidents at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico, including the associated activities at LANL.

This agreement, as the NMED Secretary of Environment Ryan Flynn stated at NNM CAB meeting on May 20, was facilitated and based at least in part, on this NNM CAB recommendation. Instead of paying fines, DOE will provide support for a variety of mutually beneficial and critical projects that will protect local communities and better safeguard transportation routes in New Mexico and around DOE sites.

These SEPs in the Settlement Agreement include approximately:

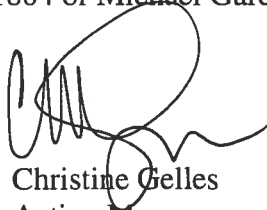
- \$34 million to improve roads and transportation routes around the WIPP site in southeastern New Mexico;
- \$12 million to improve TRU waste transportation routes in and around Los Alamos;
- \$10 million to upgrade critical water infrastructure in and around Los Alamos;
- \$9.5 million to build engineering structures and increase monitoring capabilities around LANL to better manage storm water flows;
- \$5 million to construct an emergency operations center in Carlsbad and provide enhanced training for emergency responders and mine rescue teams and;

- \$2.75 million to fund an independent triennial compliance and operational review.

DOE believe these SEPs will improve the safety and security of nuclear materials and the designated roads on which they travel.

DOE thanks NNM CAB members for the continued focus and engagement in matters that affect the Environmental Management cleanup and legacy waste mission at Los Alamos. Additionally, EM-LA would like to formally acknowledge the NNM CAB's positive contribution, through submittal of the recommendation, to the settlement process.

If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding the response to this recommendation, please contact M. Lee Bishop at (505) 606-1804 or Michael Gardipe at (505) 606-1962.



Christine Gelles  
Acting Manager  
Environmental Management  
Los Alamos Field Office

cc:

Irene V. Tse-Pe

Vice-Chair

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board

94 Cities of Gold Road

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