



A U.S. Department of Energy  
Site-Specific Advisory Board

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January 28, 2016

Mr. Doug Hintze, Manager  
Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office  
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Mr. Hintze,

I am pleased to enclose Recommendation 2016-01, which was unanimously approved by the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board during its meeting on January 27, 2016.

Please contact 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.

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Sayre  
Chair, NNMCAB

Enclosure: a/s

Cc w/encl:

U. S. Senator Tom Udall  
U. S. Senator Martin Heinrich  
U. S. Congressman Ben R. Lujan  
Secretary Ryan Flynn, NMED  
David Borak, DFO (via e-mail)  
M. Lee Bishop, Co-DDFO (via e-mail)  
Michael Gardipe, Co-DDFO (via e-mail)  
Jeff Kendall, NMED  
Katie Roberts, NMED  
Dean Hammonds, USACE (via e-mail)  
Menice B. Santistevan, Executive Director NNMCAB  
Andrea Romero, RCLC Executive Director (via e-mail)  
Gil L. Vigil, Director Eight Northern Indian Pueblos  
NNMCAB File

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**NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Recommendation to the Department of Energy**  
**No. 2016-01**  
**Title: Campaign Approach**  
**Drafted by: Carlos Valdez**

**Background**

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the New Mexico Environment Department entered into an Order of Consent in March 2005. In this Consent Order (CO) was a blueprint of clean-up activities that needed to be accomplished in and around Los Alamos, as it relates to legacy waste. The Environmental Management (EM) has worked diligently to meet milestones in the CO. However, due to several circumstances beyond the control of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) EM, several clean-up activities remain, and will not be completed by deadlines established in the CO. Some of the reasons, but definitely not all-inclusive include insufficient funding, operating under Continuing Resolution, Budget Sequestration, the discovery of unanticipated clean-up areas not included in the CO, and the two Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) incidents.

**Comments and Observations**

LANL EM's Framework Agreement (3706 Campaign) was over 90% complete in February 2014 and was well on the way to meeting a June 30, 2014 established deadline when the two incidents happened at WIPP. These incidents resulted in a complete cessation of waste disposal at WIPP. The "Deliverables" Approach had been the historical method of clean-up efforts for LANL EM. The framework agreement was the first attempt at addressing clean-up efforts in the CO using the campaign approach. Some of the lessons learned with the Campaign Approach include: Team Synergism, focused attention, and achievable results. We should use these lessons learned to make good, solid, beneficial recommendations to DOE to assist in progressive clean-up efforts for remaining legacy waste. The Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board (NNMCAB) has always provided recommendations to that extent.

**Recommendation**

1. The NNMCAB recommends to the DOE and LANL EM that the remaining clean-up work be bundled to represent an executable and logical approach to clean up.
2. The NNMCAB recommends to the DOE and LANL EM to use the "Campaign Approach" for all remaining clean-up work included in the current and/or future CO.
3. The NNMCAB recommends that DOE and LANL EM create an overall plan that specifies how the separate campaigns will be integrated to comprehensively clean up all remaining legacy waste at LANL.
4. The NNMCAB recommends to the DOE and LANL EM that all future annual budget requests be formulated and submitted based on the Campaign Approach.

1 **Intent**

2 The intent of this recommendation is to provide DOE with a realistic approach at addressing the  
3 remaining clean-up of legacy waste in and around Los Alamos. It is also intended to maximize time and  
4 effort and taxpayer dollars.

5

6 **References**

- 7 1. Douglas E. Hintze, DOE, EM-LA Presentation to NNMCAB on November 12, 2015 “Executing  
8 Legacy Cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory”  
9 2. Compliance Order on Consent, Signed March 1, 2005