

EM LOS ALAMOS FIELD OFFICE (EM-LA)

“We met all fiscal year regulatory milestones, exceeded transuranic waste shipment goals, furthered soil remediation at Aggregate Areas, and completed field work at the Middle DP Road Site—a major project and a high priority for Los Alamos County. Of key importance is the progress we made in obtaining robust and diverse stakeholder participation for the development of the EM-LA Strategic Vision. I look forward to creating a long-term vision for the future legacy cleanup projects and continuing to enhance our engagement in New Mexico.”

- Michael Mikolanis, Manager, Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office

HIGHLIGHTS

- Met all fiscal year 2023 milestones under the 2016 Compliance Order on Consent with the New Mexico Environment Department early or on time.
- **Exceeded the TRU waste shipment goal for planned shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant—an EM 2023 priority.**
- Initiated size-reduction activities for corrugated metal pipes containing cemented TRU waste at Technical Area 54, Area G.
- Finished investigation and remediation of contaminated soils at North Ancho Canyon and Threemile Canyon Aggregate Areas.
- Completed field work at the Middle DP Road Site, a project critical to economic development for Los Alamos County.
- Awarded deactivation and decommissioning contract for Ion Beam Facility and initiated first phase of project.
- Conducted 30 EM-LA Strategic Vision sessions with pueblos, stakeholders and the public for remaining legacy cleanup projects.

INVESTIGATING AND REMEDIATING LEGACY WASTE

Progress was made with two soil and debris cleanup campaigns, in and around canyons and watersheds, from legacy operations across the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) site.

Investigation and field work was completed in North Ancho Canyon (Southern External Boundary Campaign) and Threemile Canyon (Pajarito Watershed Campaign). Work is currently underway at three additional areas.



An excavation crew removes contaminated soil from legacy Los Alamos National Laboratory operations in North Ancho Canyon.

PRIORITIZING TRU SHIPMENTS TO WIPP

EM-LA completed 59 transuranic (TRU) shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)—exceeding a 2023 fiscal year goal of 40 shipments. The shipments included more than 111 cubic meters of TRU waste.



TRU waste shipments readied for transportation to WIPP for permanent disposal.

REDUCING BELOW-GROUND WASTE

The retrieval of the 158 buried corrugated metal pipes (CMPs) at Technical Area 54, Area G continued while size-reduction operations commenced. Size-reduction consists of the cutting of the CMPs into five sections in order to fit into standard waste boxes for shipment to WIPP.

Prior to cutting, each pipe is 20 feet long, 30 inches wide, weighing between 10,000 and 14,000 pounds. Twenty-four CMPs have been retrieved and 17 CMPs have been size-reduced.



Waste Retrieval Operations crew prepare a CMP filled with cemented TRU waste for size-reduction using a 10-ton electric hoist mounted on a gantry and pipe rollers in Dome 375 at Technical Area 54.

DEVELOPING EM-LA STRATEGIC VISION

A long-term strategic vision is being developed for the remaining legacy cleanup projects at the LANL site. EM-LA met with approximately 170 participants representing 20 groups, including pueblos, stakeholders and the public. Nearly 2,000 comments were received and will inform the model used to develop the strategic vision document.



Waste Retrieval Operations crew guide a cut section of CMP filled with cemented TRU waste into a standard waste box in preparation for shipment and permanent disposal at WIPP.