



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting

July 31, 2024

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Ohkay Owingeh Conference Center

68 New Mexico 291

San Juan, NM 87566

The video for the July Board Meeting can be viewed on the NNMCAB YouTube Channel:

[NNMCAB Board Meeting July 2024 - YouTube](#)

Minutes

Meeting Attendees

Department of Energy

1. Ellie Gilbertson, Deputy Manager, Environmental Management Los Alamos
2. Keith Grindstaff, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Environmental Management Los Alamos
3. John Evans, Environmental Management Los Alamos
4. Robert Reine, Environmental Management Los Alamos
5. Allison Majure, Environmental Management Los Alamos
6. Cheryl Rodriguez, Environmental Management Los Alamos
7. Sue Wacaster, Environmental Management Los Alamos
8. Scott Hutchins, National Nuclear Safety Administration

NNMCAB Members

1. Patricio Pacheco, Chair
2. Eleanor Bravo
3. Christy Green
4. Mark Hayden
5. Abbey Hayward
6. Beverly Martin
7. Stephen McLaughlin
8. Boyd Nystedt
9. Lt. Governor Jamie Viarrial
10. Joseph Villegas

NNMCAB Staff/Support

1. Bridget Maestas, Executive Director
2. Menice Santistevan, Senior Advisor
3. Yolanda Valdez, Executive Assistant

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Guests

1. Angela Martinez, Los Alamos National Laboratory
2. Kristin Henderson, N3B
3. Elicia Williams, Environmental Management Los Alamos
4. John Gonsky, Tech2 Solutions
5. Michael Peterson, New Mexico Environment Department
6. Erich Evered, N3B
7. David Abelson, N3B
8. Caitlin Martinez, New Mexico Environment Department
9. Renee Martinez, Environmental Management Los Alamos
10. Stephanie Gallagher, Environmental Management Los Alamos
11. Deborah Kerrigan, N3B
12. Jeff Holland, N3B
13. Scott Kovac, Nuclear Watch New Mexico
14. Amanda Caudillo, Environmental Management Los Alamos
15. Kelsey Shank, theEDGE
16. Troy Thompson, N3B
17. Amanda Kennedy, Environmental Management Los Alamos
18. Theresa Bonelli, Environmental Management Los Alamos
19. Felicia Aguilar, N3B
20. Kathryn Wheeler, Industrial Economics, Incorporated
21. James Dyer, New Mexico Environmental Department
22. Dave Kostorowski, Sealaska Technical Services, LLC
23. Debby Holgerson, N3B
24. Sue Wacaster, Environmental Management Los Alamos
25. Christian Maupin, N3B
26. Wayne Barber, Exchange Monitor Publications
27. Ruben Rangel, Environmental Management Los Alamos
28. Joe Ritchey, Environmental Management Los Alamos
29. Randal James Roberts, TetraTech
30. Catherine Juarez, Los Alamos National Laboratory
31. Patricia Medina, Environmental Management Los Alamos
32. Rick Shean, New Mexico Environmental Department
33. John D. Nance, New Mexico Environmental Department
34. Siona Briley, New Mexico Environmental Department
35. Neelam. Dhawan, New Mexico Environmental Department
36. Elena Fernandez, NMSU Program Manager EPA R6 EJ TCTAC
37. Thomas McCrory, Environmental Management Los Alamos
38. David Abelson, N3B

***The written minutes are intended as a synopsis of the meeting.**

1 **Minutes**

2 **I. Call to Order**

3 The meeting of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) was held on
4 July 31, 2024, in a hybrid and in person format. Mr. Keith Grindstaff, Deputy Designated
5 Federal Officer (DDFO), Environmental Management Los Alamos stated that on behalf of the
6 Department of Energy (DOE) the meeting of the NNMCAB was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

7 Mr. Grindstaff recognized Mr. Patricio Pacheco, the NNMCAB Chair. Mr. Pacheco presided at
8 the meeting.

9 The meeting of the NNMCAB was posted in the *Federal Register* in accordance with the
10 Federal Advisory Committee Act.

11 **II. Establishment of a Quorum (Roll Call)**

12 Mr. Pacheco conducted roll call of board members and guests in person and on WebEx. At the
13 call to order, ten NNMCAB members were present or online, and a quorum was established.
14 Mr. Pacheco stated that the meeting was being recorded to produce the minutes of the
15 meeting.
16

17 **III. Welcome and Introductions**

18 Mr. Pacheco welcomed everyone to the July Board Meeting. He then introduced the NNMCAB
19 staff and himself. Mr. Pacheco asked the Board members to introduce themselves.
20

21 **IV. Approval of Agenda**

22 The board reviewed the agenda for the July 31, 2024, meeting.

23 Ms. Beverly Martin made a motion to approve the agenda; Mr. Mark Hayden seconded the
24 motion. The motion to approve the agenda, as presented, passed.
25

26 **V. Old Business**

27 **a. Update from Chair/Vice-Chair**

28 **Mr. Pacheco, NNMCAB Chair**

29 Mr. Pacheco stated that a community forum took place in July at the Buffalo Thunder
30 Hotel. Approximately 130 members of the public were in attendance. Representatives
31 from DOE, Emergency Management Los Alamos (EM-LA), and the National Nuclear
32 Security Administration (NNSA) were present and provided excellent information to the
33 public. Another forum occurred on July 25th, at the SALA Event Center in Los Alamos. Mr.
34 Pacheco thanked Ms. Ellie Gilbertson for the cleanup update she provided at the forum.
35

36 **b. Update from Subcommittee Chairs**

37 **Risk Evaluation & Management Subcommittee**

38 Ms. Beverly Martin stated that the Risk Evaluation & Management Subcommittee met
39 recently. The chromium plume remains a concern of the subcommittee.

1 **Consent Order Subcommittee**

2 Mr. Mark Hayden requested the status of the following items: The litigation between DOE
3 and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) so the NNMCAB can move forward
4 with rewriting the Consent Order; DOE’s investigation into the NNMCAB boundary to
5 expand to the four corners of the state; the status of the recommendation made by the
6 board that requested an annual update on the Board’s past recommendations.

7
8 **VI. New Business**

9 **a. Consideration and Action on Chairs’ Recommendation**

10 Mr. Pacheco stated that consideration and action are needed for the recommendation
11 made at the Spring Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB)
12 Chairs meeting. The recommendation states that the EM SSAB website maintain and keep
13 documents related to the board’s activities in perpetuity. The documents shall be in a
14 searchable, online, archival location available to the public. These documents include but
15 are not limited to recommendations, responses, and minutes. Mr. Pacheco requested a
16 motion to approve the recommendation.

17 Mr. Hayden made a motion to accept the recommendation; Mr. Joseph Villegas seconded
18 the motion. The motion to accept the recommendation passed unanimously.

19 **b. Appointment of Nominating Committee**

20 Mr. Pacheco stated that elections will take place in September for Chair and Vice-Chair of
21 the NNMCAB. Volunteers are needed for a nominating committee. The members of the
22 nominating committee will reach out to members to discuss running for the positions or
23 requesting nominations.

24 Mr. Villegas and Mr. Hayden volunteered to serve as the nominating committee.

25
26 **VII. Update from DDFO**

27 Mr. Grindstaff stated that the board members participated in a three-hour workshop before
28 the Board Meeting. A Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) presentation was given by Kelly
29 Snyder, EM SSAB Designated Federal Officer (DFO). Member Toolkits were provided and
30 NNMCAB staff reviewed the information with members.

31
32 **VIII. Presentation on LANL Legacy Cleanup Overview**

33 Ms. Ellie Gilbertson, Deputy Manager Environmental Management Los Alamos, and Troy
34 Thompson, N3B Environmental Remediation Manager, presented on, “LANL Legacy Cleanup
35 Overview.” An electronic copy of the presentation may be obtained from the NNMCAB staff.
36 (Yolanda.valdez@em.doe.gov or bridget.maestas@em.doe.gov)

37 Ms. Gilbertson stated that she and Mr. Thompson will be providing a basic overview of what
38 EM-LA and its core contractor N3B, are responsible for in Los Alamos. She noted that there are
39 two DOE entities in Los Alamos. NNSA who’s chief focus is pit production, global security,
40 capital projects and assets, technology development, and management and operations of the
41 contract at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). EM-LA’s focus is soil and water
42 cleanup and waste disposition for legacy contamination that was created before 1999. EM-

1 LA's chief goals are safety in the cleanup process, safety for workers, and safety for those who
2 reside in Los Alamos and the surrounding areas.

3 Mr. Thompson stated that he would be discussing the three main areas of the cleanup project:
4 protection of water quality, cleaning up the land, and shipping waste off-site. Mr. Thompson
5 stated that the protection of water quality involves groundwater monitoring and remediation,
6 stormwater management, and surface/stormwater sampling and controls. The cleanup of the
7 land portion includes investigation and remediation of surface and subsurface contamination,
8 remediation of Material Disposal Areas (MDAs), and off-site shipment and remediation of
9 waste. Shipping waste off-site includes above-ground transuranic (TRU) waste, below-ground
10 TRU waste, and low-level waste (LLW). Mr. Thompson then discussed the successes that have
11 taken place such as the completion of DP Road in Los Alamos, the number of samples that
12 have been taken, and the yardage of waste and debris that was excavated, packaged, and
13 shipped off-site.

14 Ms. Gilbertson provided information on the steps and actions that are involved in the Consent
15 Order, when a Corrective Measures Evaluation (CME) is required. She noted that the Consent
16 Order does contain requirements for investigation and cleanup, and it also provides deadlines
17 so that the remediation achieves the desired end state. Ms. Gilbertson went on to provide
18 information on the Areas of Concern (AOCs), Solid Waste Management Units (SMU's) and the
19 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) that fall under the Consent Order. Ms.
20 Gilbertson then discussed the role of the NMED.

21 **a. Questions**

22 Ms. Martin asked how DP Road in Los Alamos could be utilized by the county for
23 residential use.

24 Mr. Thompson stated that MDA-B is adjacent to the residential area. Historical records
25 show that the residential area was a material receiving area and site housing.

26 Ms. Martin asked how many drums of legacy waste are currently being stored above
27 ground and how many will be generated from the Corrugated Metal Pipes (CMPs).

28 Ms. Gilbertson stated that there are approximately 3,000 drums above ground at Area G.
29 She then stated that each CMP generates between four to five standard waste boxes,
30 which are the equivalent of four drums. That is an estimated six hundred drums.

31 Mr. Nystedt asked if N3B was testing for radio nuclides and volatile organic compounds at
32 the monitoring sites.

33 Mr. Thompson stated that they are sampling for both. N3B has 193 stormwater sites in
34 various locations. Structures are built on those sites to either reduce water flow or let
35 contaminants settle.

36 Mr. Nystedt asked if they are attempting to contain natural flow or only what is coming off
37 the LANL sites.

38 Mr. Thompson stated that in areas where there is known contamination, the structures
39 collect the sediment. Water will still flow but samples are taken to ensure that there are
40 no contaminants.

41 Mr. Hayden asked what percentage of the 18,241 cubic meters of waste that had been
42 shipped was pre-1999 legacy waste.

- 1 Mr. Thompson stated that all the waste was pre-1999 legacy waste.
- 2 Ms. Gilbertson stated that the drums fall under the Environmental Management (EM)
3 scope.
- 4 Mr. Hayden asked if the drums remained under the jurisdiction of the Northern New
5 Mexico Citizens Advisory Board until their arrival at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).
- 6 Ms. Gilbertson stated that the NNMCAB's jurisdiction only covers Northern New Mexico.
7 When the drums leave the facility boundary they then fall under the jurisdiction of the
8 Department of Transportation (DOT). Upon arrival at the Carlsbad facility border, it then
9 lies under the jurisdiction of the Carlsbad Field Office.
- 10 Mr. Hayden asked if the Independent Technical Review Team that was jointly appointed
11 by NMED and DOE had provided information on the Hydro Well.
- 12 Ms. Gilbertson stated that the evaluation is still ongoing.
- 13 Mr. Hayden requested the status of the CMP project.
- 14 Mr. Thompson stated that 124 drums out of the 158 drums have been retrieved from
15 underground. A hydraulic shear is being utilized to cut the CMPs into 4-foot sections and
16 then they are placed in a solid waste box for characterization.
- 17 Ms. Gilbertson stated that the shear was recommended by N3B staff, and it is a safer
18 method than what was originally proposed.
- 19 Mr. Hayden requested an update on the Ion Beam Facility demolition project.
- 20 Ms. Gilbertson stated that APTIM is the contractor in charge of tearing down the facility
21 and she will provide more information at a future date.
- 22 Ms. Bravo asked if legacy sites continue to be discovered.
- 23 Ms. Gilbertson stated that the Legacy sites have been identified and are protected
24 however, there is a chance that debris will be found while doing other activities on the
25 mesa.
- 26 Ms. Bravo asked if the current work generates recommendations for prevention.
- 27 Ms. Gilbertson stated that lessons learned are created and shared.
- 28 Ms. Bravo asked how DOE interfaces with NMED on regulatory issues.
- 29 Ms. Gilbertson stated that it is a matter of jurisdiction. Entities such as DOE, NMED, and
30 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) understand their jurisdiction and execute to
31 that jurisdiction.
- 32 Ms. Bravo asked what the process is for identifying a work plan.
- 33 Mr. Thompson stated that background information is compiled on the site. Boundaries are
34 then set up and samples are taken at different locations and depths. The results of these
35 samples will determine what should be excavated or if the boundary needs to be
36 increased for extra sampling.
- 37 Ms. Martin asked if NMED is also committed to following the recommendations of the
38 Independent Technical Review Team.
- 39 Ms. Gilbertson stated that NMED may provide information on this subject.

IX. Update from NMED

Mr. Rick Shean provided an overview of the work that NMED provides at LANL. Mr. Shean stated that NMED holds the RCRA permit that allows them to provide oversight of the current hazardous waste and its ongoing research, activity, and development. Legacy Waste is covered under the Consent Order that was renegotiated in 2016. NMED, LANL, and DOE have been in negotiations over the Consent Order for several years and it is close to completion. Upon completion of the Consent Order, a public meeting will be held to discuss changes and other factors. Mr. Shean stated that the NMED Resource Protection Division consist of three bureaus that also support the LANL mission. The Department of Energy Oversight Bureau has been operational since 2000. It is a non-regulatory and non-conformance group that provides a third-party view of the environment for LANL and the community. The Ground Water Bureau is involved with the discharge permits, and the Surface Water Bureau tests for water quality. On a Federal level, NMED is involved with the Environmental Council of States, the Federal Facilities Task Force, and the State and Tribal Government Working Group (STGWG). These groups allow for headquarters, DOE, EPA, state agencies, and Tribal entities to discuss vital information to the missions in the states that have research facilities.

Mr. Shean introduced Mr. John Nance, Director, Hazardous Waste Bureau.

Consent Order – NMED and DOE held a public meeting and finalized the Fiscal Year (FY)24 Appendix B on June 5th; FY25 Appendix B is set to be completed soon.

Chromium Interim Measure (IM) - NMED sent a Notice of Disapproval (NOD) on the updated Chromium IM and the Characterization Work Plan. NMED requires that DOE propose an alternate location for injection as part of the revised document. That revised document was due in early July and NMED is awaiting its submission.

Groundwater - The Work Plan for well R-76 was approved on June 8, 2023. Drilling is ongoing and is close to completion. The Pueblo of San Ildefonso has submitted a proposal for a single screen well for SIMR-3. NMED is awaiting the submission of a revised document from the Pueblo of San Ildefonso that addresses that requirement. The Chromium IM has been shut down since the end of March 2023. NMED and DOE have not agreed on a path forward and will rely on the recommendations of the Independent Technical Review Team to move forward. NMED previously required that DOE expand the IM through the installation of additional injection wells as part of the condition to restart the injection operations under Discharge Permit 1835. On June 7th NMED issued a notification authorizing operation of injection well CrIN-3, CrIN-4, and CrIN-5 to facilitate the restart extraction and treatment of contaminated water.

Corrective Action Documents – NMED issued a Statement of Basis for MDA C and held a 60-day public comment period. There were three requests for a public hearing. NMED is in the process of scheduling a public hearing and negotiations. The proposed rule would improve the evaluation of alternative technologies for treating waste explosives in lieu of open burn and detonation.

Permit Related Activities – On March 20th the EPA proposed amendments to the regulations for open burn and open detonation areas for disposal of waste explosives. DOE is re-evaluating the permit application with consideration of the proposed rule. NMED is awaiting the evaluation.

1 **WIPP Update** – WIPP permit renewal became effective on November 3, 2023. Permittees are
2 implementing permit conditions that specifically focus on the Legacy TRU Waste disposal plan.
3 An update on the plan was provided at the WIPP Community Forum on July 30th. Information
4 on that can be found on the Hazardous Waste Bureau WIPP website.

5 A Class 1, two- item package was submitted on March 19, 2024, at WIPP. During renewal
6 negotiations, permittees agreed to two Class 1 packages. Item one’s revised text pertained to
7 Tribal Community notice and involvement. Item two revised text in attachment A1, pertained
8 to flood zone designation for the WIPP facility. The revisions were incorporated with Class 2
9 and will be approved upon submittal. NMED submitted the updated Class 1 Fire and Water
10 distribution system description on April 29, 2024. The update contains additional descriptions,
11 updated permits, and a current facility layout. It is also incorporated with a Class 2, and it will
12 be approved upon submittal. The Class 2 two item package was submitted on March 29, 2024,
13 and the public notice was issued on April 2nd. The 60-day public comment period closed on
14 June 3rd and that included the addition of new shielded container assembly and a graded
15 approach to audits that are conducted. On June 25th NMED issued a final determination
16 approving the PMR with changes and incorporating the two Class 1 Permit Modifications
17 previously mentioned. NMED has no permit modifications pending.

18 **Shipment for 2024 Calendar Year** – From January 1st through July 15th, WIPP has received 260
19 shipments: 189 from Idaho, 26 from Los Alamos, 35 from Savannah River, 6 from Oak Ridge,
20 and 4 from Argonne National Laboratory.

21 **a. Questions**

22 Mr. Hayden asked how NMED is certain that injections would resume.

23 Mr. Nance stated that guidance derives from in-house hydrologists and modeling. The
24 recommendation was to build a hydro barrier on San Ildefonso land for protection.

25 Mr. Shean clarified that the wells currently on San Ildefonso land are monitoring wells and
26 not injection wells.

27 Mr. Hayden asked what modeling is being used and what will it be used for.

28 Mr. Thompson stated that data from samples taken at the wells is entered into a
29 numerical model and it completes iterations that will provide probability. The model is
30 considered calibrated when the data matches the environmental conditions of the well.

31 Mr. Hayden asked the name of the model.

32 Ms. Gilbertson stated that the title is Finite Element Heat and Mass Transfer Model
33 (FEHM).

34 Mr. Hayden asked if this model had been used previously.

35 Mr. Thompson stated that the model had been used previously. The model’s purpose is
36 not to create a hydro barrier but to model it. Hydro barriers have been used previously at
37 other locations and documentation can be supplied upon request.

38 **X. Update and Look Ahead from N3B**

39 **TRU Waste and CMPs** – Waste shipments will continue throughout the summer. From January
40 1st to June 30th, 16 shipments have been sent to WIPP. Shipments were halted in February
41 during WIPP’s scheduled maintenance outage. Retrieval and size reduction of the CMPs
42

1 continue and will remain a priority through FY25. Drill and drain of TRU Waste drums will
 2 resume at Area-G. Drums with liquid are prohibited at WIPP so drums will be punctured, and
 3 the liquid drained. The Universal Drum Assay and Segregation System (UDAS) project is
 4 underway. UDAS is a sophisticated technology to characterize waste that has been previously
 5 used in Europe and is being demonstrated here. The sophistication and conservativeness of
 6 this technology will assist in future characterization.

7 **TA-54 LLW and Mixed LLW Campaigns** – At contract start, approximately 1,883 legacy
 8 containers of waste were stored above ground. One hundred and thirteen of those drums
 9 remain as the FY closes out.

10 **Aggregate Areas** – Characterization continues at the Aggregate Areas and waste is shipped
 11 within the 90-day period. Work has been carried out on a total of five Aggregate Areas this
 12 summer. Chaquehui Canyon is in Phase III and should reach its completion by the end of the
 13 summer. Remediation will continue into FY25. Starmer/ Upper Pajarito Canyon and Twomile
 14 Canyon Aggregate Areas are in Phase I. Completion is expected in three years. Sampling was
 15 completed at Twomile Canyon. Approximately 3,500 samples were taken due to PCB
 16 contamination in one area. Sampling has been taking place in Potrillo/Fence aggregate areas.
 17 Pueblo and Manhattan Project sites have been identified at these locations; consultations will
 18 take place to ensure that areas are preserved. Investigations are taking place in the Lower
 19 Pajarito Aggregate Area. This Aggregate Area is in the southern external boundary or in the
 20 Pajarito Watershed Campaign.

21 N3B submitted an Annual Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan and progress
 22 report on Chromium Plume control and Interim Measures performance. This year soil vapor
 23 extraction was added to the report. N3B expects to wrap up its Consent Order obligations
 24 over August and September. Well R-76 and Twomile Canyon reports are also due to NMED
 25 before the close of the FY.

26 **a. Questions**

27 Ms. Hayward asked what a vapor plume is and what is the process for mitigation and
 28 remediation.

29 Mr. Thompson stated that a vapor plume is a plume that is located between the surface
 30 and the groundwater. Drums that have corroded over the years, may contain volatile
 31 organics that have seeped into the mesa. These areas are sampled and have shown to be
 32 stable.

33 **XI. Update and Look Ahead from EM-LA**

34 Ms. Gilbertson thanked the board for the opportunity to provide an update on the Legacy
 35 Cleanup. Ms. Gilbertson stated that EM-LA has hired Jessica Kunkle as the new Manager of the
 36 Los Alamos Field Office. Ms. Kunkle comes from NNSA with tremendous experience in
 37 infrastructure and project management.
 38

39 **Expert Technical Review** – In December of 2023 EM-LA and NMED engaged with the Network
 40 of National Laboratories for Environmental Management and Stewardship (NLEMS). Experts
 41 were pulled from academia, industry, and the EPA Region 6, to perform a technical review of
 42 the professional opinions between DOE and NMED. The team is composed of 15 members and
 43 convened in March 2024. The team has been evaluating the following five specific lines of
 44 inquiry:

- 1 • The ability of the Chromium IM to hydraulically control the plume.
- 2 • State of the plume modeling
- 3 • An evaluation of NMED’s proposed correction actions and conditions, including
- 4 conditional restarts.
- 5 • Readiness to propose and begin remedial alternatives.
- 6 • The current concept for monitoring well designs.

7 The initial report will be made available to EM-LA and NMED by mid to late August. The final
 8 report is anticipated to be completed by the end of the calendar year. The report will be made
 9 available to the public. NMED and EM-LA are still in discussion on how it will be made
 10 available to the public.

11 **Hexavalent Chromium Plume** – The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental
 12 Assessment (EA) for Chromium will be completed by the end of the summer. EM-LA will advise
 13 stakeholders and the public where the assessment can be accessed.

14 **Strategic Vision** – The Strategic Vision centers on a proactive and regular engagement with
 15 the NNM CAB, stakeholders, pueblos and local communities. This effort allows EM-LA to
 16 identify what each group’s core values and priorities are. EM-LA’s goal is to incorporate all of
 17 this into methodologies for cleanup. Strategic Vision consists of educational sessions, listening
 18 sessions, developing the framework for the Strategic Vision, finalization of the Strategic Vision,
 19 and begin rolling out reports.

20 **a. Questions**

21 Mr. Hayden asked if NMED and EM-LA will have the opportunity to discuss professional
 22 fallacies when the Independent Technical Review is completed.

23 Ms. Gilbertson stated that EM-LA and NMED will have the opportunity to provide a factual
 24 accuracy check when the initial report is released.

25 Mr. McLaughlin asked if the NEPA assessment of the chromium plume is intended to
 26 incorporate an assessment of potential downstream damage.

27 Ms. Gilbertson stated the EA will cover a broad range of impacts and that may be included
 28 in the assessment.

29 Mr. McLaughlin asked if the other contractors that operate on site provide presentations
 30 to the NNM CAB and if they are in the NNM CAB’s purview.

31 Ms. Gilbertson stated that the contractors are currently not up and running and will be in
 32 the NNM CAB purview.

33 **XII. Public Comment Period**

34 Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for public comment at 4:06 p.m.

35 Scott Kovac, Nuclear Watch New Mexico, signed up for public comment. Mr. Kovac requested
 36 that a copy of the presentation be sent to him before each NNM CAB meeting. Mr. Kovac
 37 expressed interest in the NEPA EA and how it would not be supported by the report from the
 38 Independent Technical Review team.
 39

1 Mr. Thompson stated that the NEPA EA will be reporting multiple options. It is an
2 environmental look at what potential future operations would contribute.

3 With no further public comment, Mr. Pacheco closed public comment at 4:10 p.m.

4
5 **XIII. Adjournment**

6 Ms. Maestas stated that the next NNMCAB meeting will take place on September 18th at the
7 Hotel Don Fernando in Taos. The EM SSAB Chairs meeting will take place in Oak Ridge,
8 Tennessee on September 24th-27th. Beverly Martin and Manuel L'Esperance will be attending.
9 The NNMCAB will be attending a WIPP tour on October 17th. Two groups of ten will be going
10 on underground tour. The November meeting will be held at the Ohkay Conference Center on
11 November 6th. The NNMCAB is accepting applications for board members. Please reach out to
12 the NNMCAB staff if you have any recommendations for membership. She reminded everyone
13 that meeting packets are not allowed to be sent out to the public until after the meeting.

14 With no additional business to discuss, Mr. Grindstaff adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

15 **Certified By:**



16 10/02/2024

17 **Mr. Patricio Pacheco, Chair**

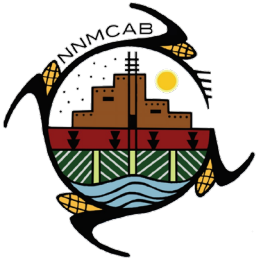
18
19 ***Minutes prepared by Yolanda Valdez, Executive Assistant, NNMCAB**

20
21 **Attachments**

- 22 1. Final NNMCAB Meeting Agenda for 07/31/2024
- 23 2. EM SSAB Chairs Recommendation
- 24 3. Biography, Troy Thompson
- 25 4. Presentation by Ellie Gilbertson, EM-LA and Troy Thompson, N3B, "Legacy Cleanup Overview:
26 Briefing to NNMCAB"
- 27 5. Handout, N3B Project Update Q3 2024

28 **Public Notice:**

29 ***All NNMCAB meetings are recorded. The written minutes are intended as a synopsis of the meeting.**



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
July 31, 2024
Ohkay Owingeh Conference Center
68 New Mexico 291
San Juan, NM 87566

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (MDT)

(Please see WebEx Call-In Information Below)

AGENDA

<u>Time</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
1:00 p.m.	Call to Order	Keith Grindstaff, Deputy Designated Federal Officer
	Welcome and Introductions	Patricio Pacheco, Chair
	Overview and Approval of Agenda	
1:10 p.m.	Old Business	
	a. Update from Chair and Vice-Chair	Patricio and Manny L'Esperance
	b. Update from Subcommittees	Mark Hayden and Beverly Martin
1:20 p.m.	New Business	
	a. Consideration and Action on Chairs' Recommendation	
	b. Appointment of Nominating Committee	
	c. Other Items	
1:30 p.m.	Update from DDFO	Keith Grindstaff
1:45 p.m.	Presentation on "LANL Legacy Cleanup Overview"	Ellie Gilbertson Troy Thomson, Environmental Remediation Program Manager
2:45 p.m.	Update from NMED	Rick Shean, Director, Resource Protection Division J.D. Nance, Bureau Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau
3:15 p.m.	Break	
3:30 p.m.	Update and Look Ahead from N3B	Troy Thomson, Environmental Remediation Project Manager
4:00 p.m.	Update from EM Los Alamos Field Office	Sarah "Ellie" Gilbertson, EM-LA Deputy Manager
4:30 p.m.	Public Comment Period	
4:45 p.m.	Items from Executive Director	Bridget Maestas
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	Keith Grindstaff, DDFO

Meeting number (access code): 2823 598 8821

Meeting password: U8HhhYrJU28

<https://doe.webex.com/doe/j.php?MTID=m5cc5ef0b1743170d983985253f4de2c2>

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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Hanford Idaho Nevada Northern New Mexico
Oak Ridge Paducah Portsmouth Savannah River

INSERT DATE

Kelly K. Snyder
Designated Federal Officer
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM)
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Ms. Snyder:

Justification: As DOE Headquarters endeavors to update its website, the EM Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) has been requested to provide input for the EM SSAB website and its content.

In order to educate and inform future board members, interested community groups, and the public in general, we want to maintain a detailed archive of board activities that is easily accessible from the website.

Recommendation: The board recommends that the EM SSAB website maintain and keep documents related to board activities in perpetuity. The documents shall be in a searchable archival online location available to the public. These documents include, but are not limited to, recommendations, responses, and minutes.

Who We Are

The EM SSAB is the DOE EM's most effective vehicle for fostering two-way communication between DOE EM and the communities it serves. The EM program is the world's largest environmental cleanup program, and the EM SSAB its only citizen advisory board. For more than 20 years, the volunteer citizens of the EM SSAB have partnered with EM officials at both the local and national levels to ensure that the public has a meaningful voice in cleanup decisions.

Public participation is required/recommended as part of a number of environmental regulations. It is also good business practice, resulting in better decisions that often result in improved cleanup. Since 1994, EM SSAB members have volunteered thousands of hours of their time and submitted to EM officials over 1700 recommendations, 85% of which have been fully or partially implemented, resulting in improved cleanup decisions.

The EM SSAB comprises approximately 200 people from communities in Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington. The Board is cumulatively representative of a stakeholder population totaling millions of people who are affected by generator sites, transportation routes and disposal sites. As we move forward, the EM SSAB welcomes the opportunity to highlight the value of this unique volunteer board and discuss its priorities during the months and years ahead.

Susan Coleman, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

Teri Ehresman, Chair
Idaho Cleanup Project CAB

Anthony Graham, Chair
Nevada SSAB

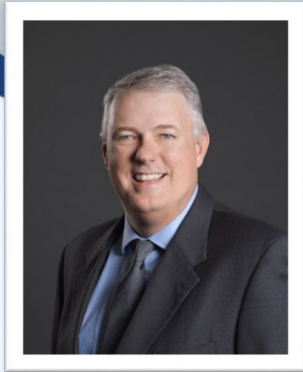
Patricio Pacheco, Chair
Northern New Mexico CAB

Amy Jones, Chair
Oak Ridge SSAB

Don Barger, Chair
Paducah CAB

Jody Crabtree, Chair
Portsmouth SSAB

Phyllis Britt, Chair
Savannah River Site CAB



Troy Thomson

*Environmental Remediation Program
Manager*

Troy joined N3B in 2018 as environmental remediations operations director and was appointed environmental remediation program manager in 2023 after serving in that position in an acting capacity since 2020.

Troy provides overall supervisory leadership for staff to support compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, archeological/State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) liaison activity and Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) requirements. He also is responsible for environmental review and monitoring functions, developing the Annual Site Environmental Report and managing the environmental radiation protection program (DOE Order 458.1 implementation).

Troy has more than 25 years of experience supporting the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). Before joining N3B he worked with several contracting companies, including Navarro Research and Engineering, Stoller Newport News Nuclear and SM Stoller Corporation at DOE and DOD sites across the U.S., where he was responsible for construction and remediation projects.

Troy received his Bachelor of Science (Chemical Engineering) from the University of Idaho, and he maintains numerous certifications and training qualifications.

N3B is a limited liability company owned by Huntington Ingalls Nuclear (a subsidiary of Huntington Ingalls Industries) and BWX Technologies. N3B manages the Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contract for the U.S. Department of Energy's Environmental Management Los Alamos (EM-LA) Field Office.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**



Legacy Cleanup Overview: Briefing to Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board

S. Elizabeth (Ellie) Gilbertson

Deputy Manager

DOE Office of Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA)

Troy Thomson

Environmental Remediation Program Manager

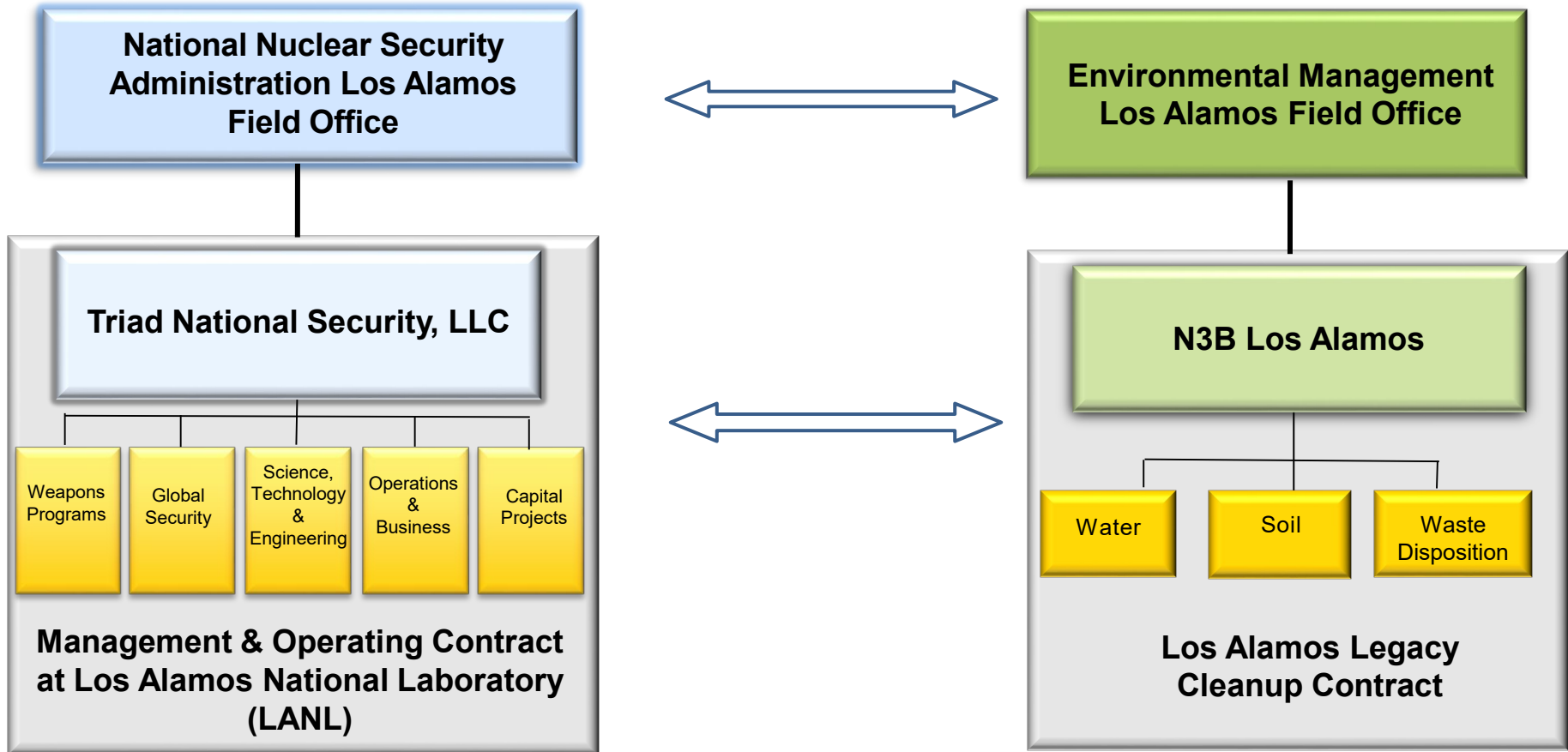
Newport Nuclear News BWXT Los Alamos (N3B)

July 31, 2024



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
SAFETY ♦ PERFORMANCE ♦ CLEANUP ♦ CLOSURE







To safely, efficiently and with full transparency
complete the cleanup of legacy (pre-1999)
contamination and waste resulting from nuclear
weapons development and government-sponsored
nuclear research at LANL





- Groundwater monitoring & remediation
- Storm water management
- Surface/storm water sampling & controls



- Investigation and remediation of surface & subsurface contamination
- Remediation of Material Disposal Areas (MDAs)
- Off-site shipment of remediation waste (treatment & disposal)



- Above-ground transuranic (TRU) waste
- Below-ground TRU waste
- Low-level waste (LLW) & mixed LLW





Protecting water quality is a priority for the legacy cleanup program. Understanding surface water and groundwater movement is central to that effort.

Sampling water quality in Los Alamos Canyon



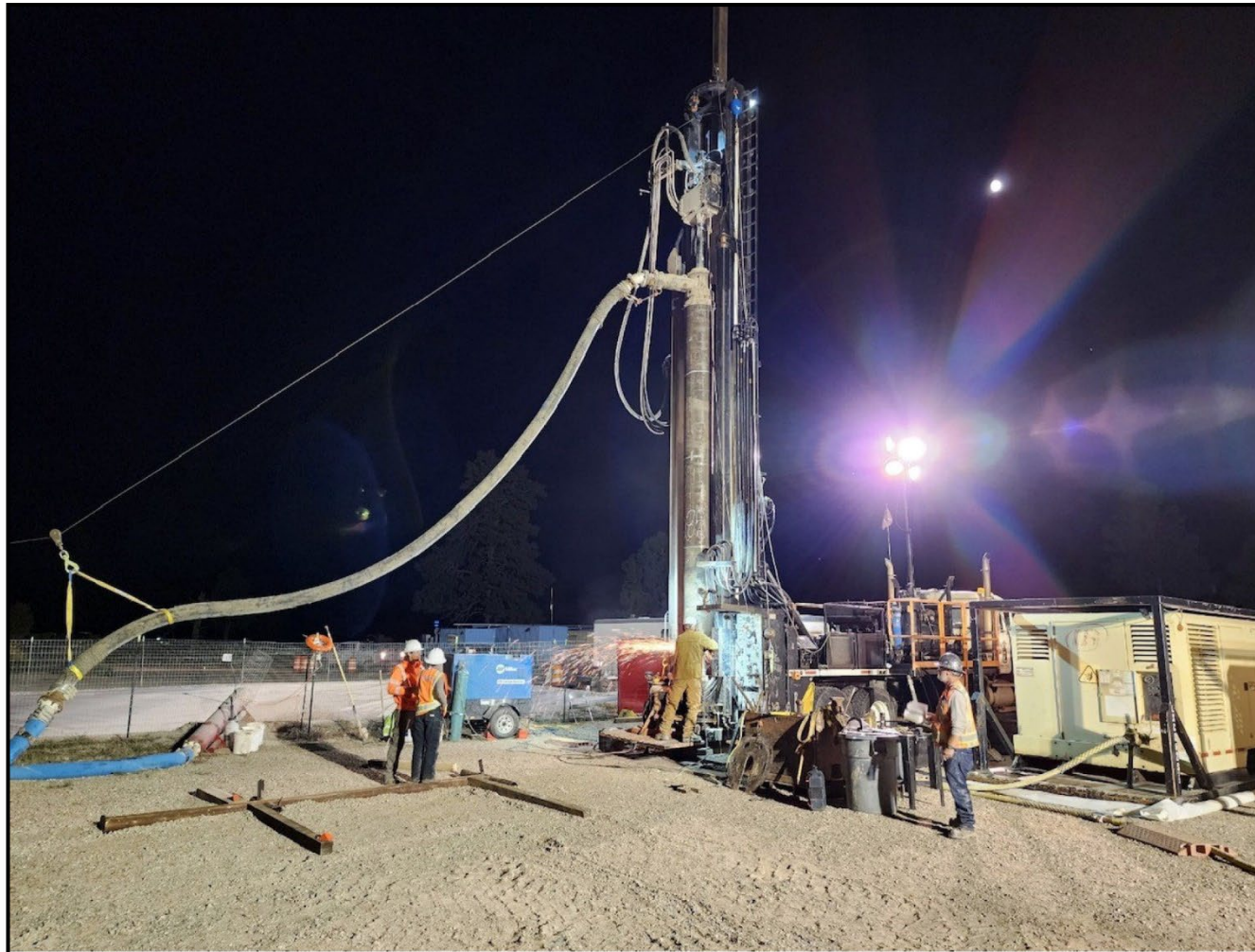


Sandia Canyon
storm water control





Contaminated Groundwater: Hexavalent Chromium



The Hexavalent Chromium Campaign includes installing and operating wells and associated equipment to conduct activities (including an interim measure) to prevent migration of the hexavalent chromium plume beyond the LANL boundary, and to obtain data for completing a Corrective Measures Evaluation Report

Drilling well R-76





Clean Up the Land: Solid Waste Management Units & Areas of Concern

Protecting water quality necessitates remediating contaminated soils and verifying old waste disposal sites protect water quality and human and ecological health

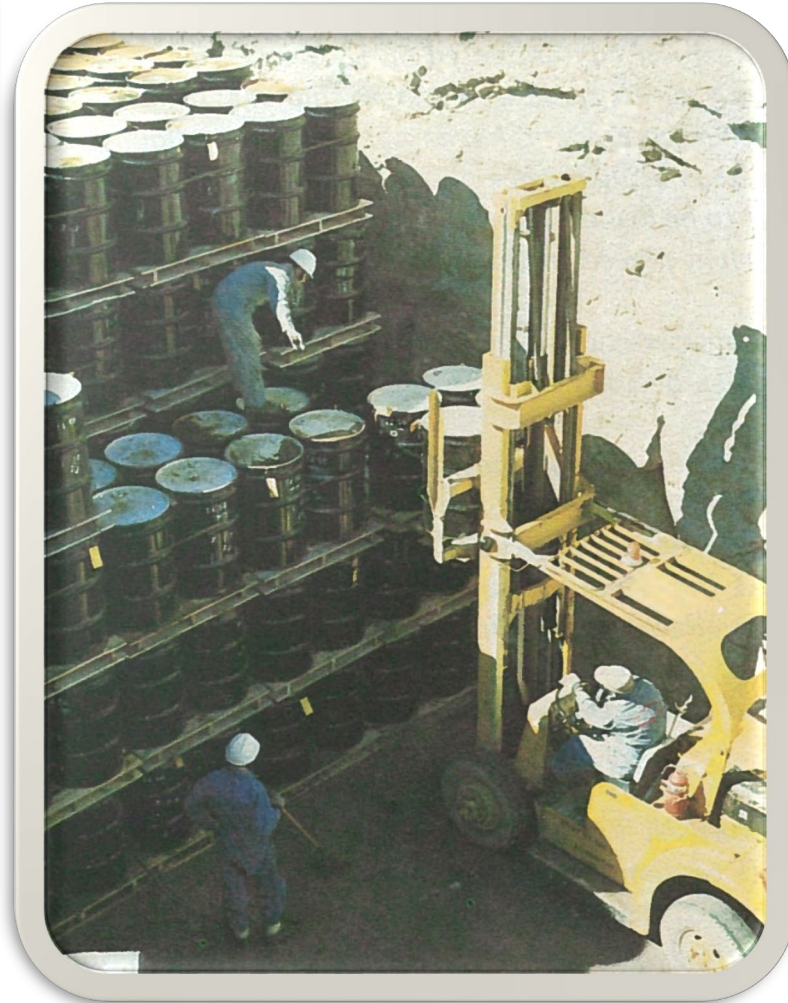


South Ancho Canyon Aggregate Area
SWMU 33-003(a), Underground Chamber





Material Disposal Areas (MDAs): Cold War Disposal Sites



Both photos:
MDA G





Recent Success: Middle DP Road Site



Middle DP Road is the site of a future housing development for Los Alamos County. 867 samples from 289 locations were collected and evaluated, and more than 5,917 cubic yards of waste and debris was excavated, packaged and shipped off-site.

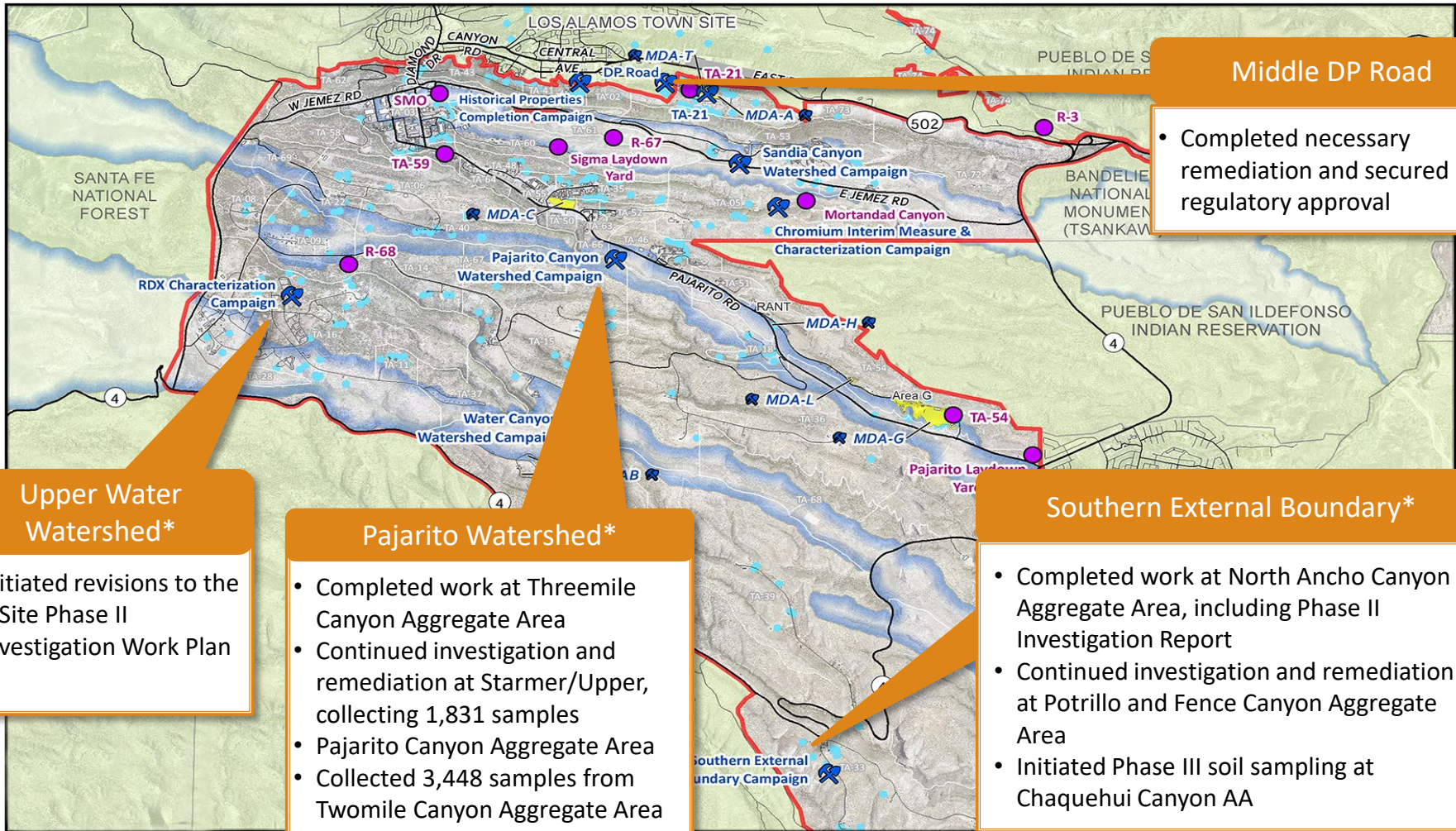
Status:
Project complete and approved by NMED
February 2024

Photo: August 2021





Clean Up the Land: Recent Aggregate Areas Work



Middle DP Road

- Completed necessary remediation and secured regulatory approval

Upper Water Watershed*

- Initiated revisions to the S-Site Phase II Investigation Work Plan

Pajarito Watershed*

- Completed work at Threemile Canyon Aggregate Area
- Continued investigation and remediation at Starmer/Upper, collecting 1,831 samples
- Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area
- Collected 3,448 samples from Twomile Canyon Aggregate Area

Southern External Boundary*

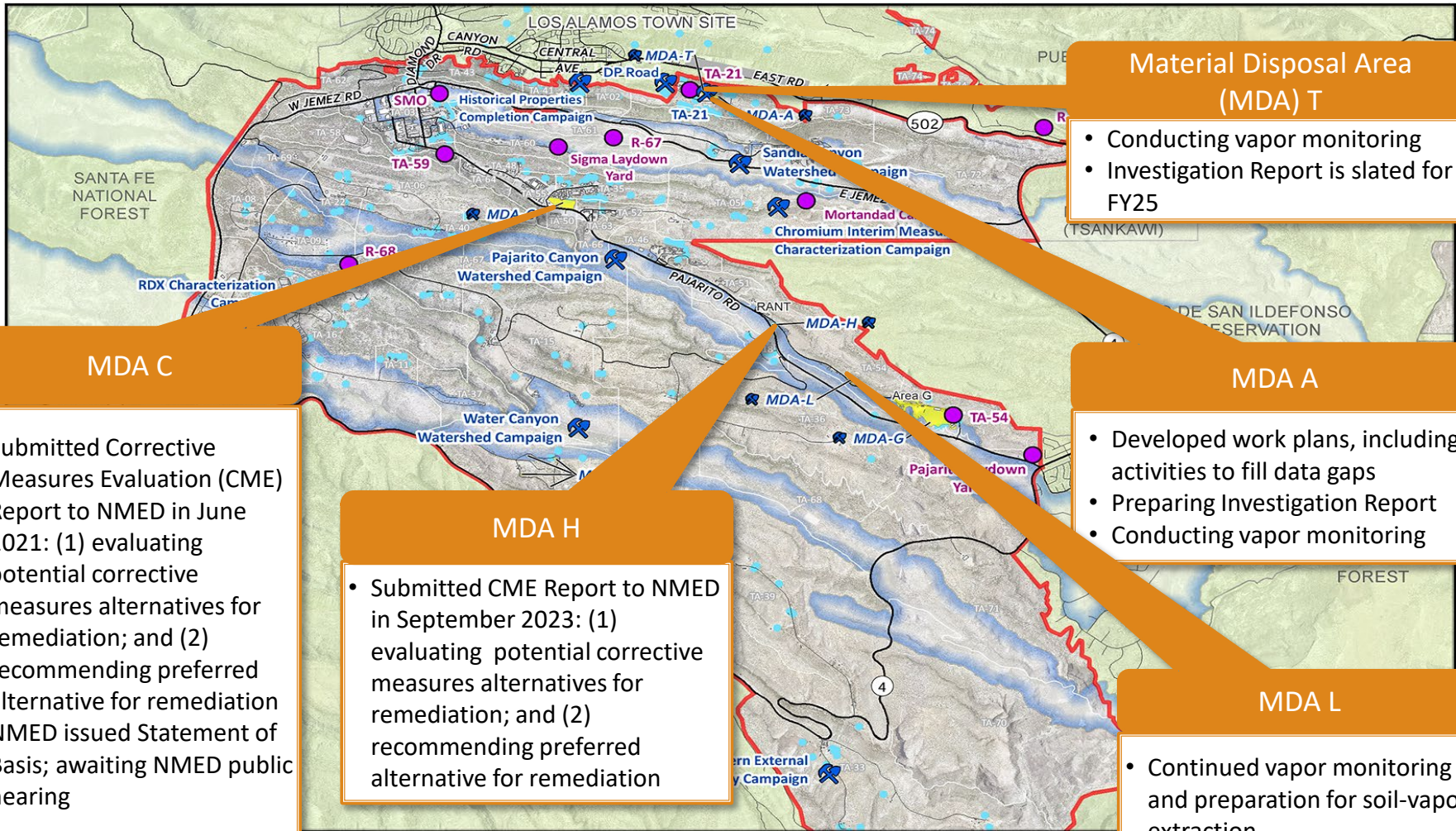
- Completed work at North Ancho Canyon Aggregate Area, including Phase II Investigation Report
- Continued investigation and remediation at Potrillo and Fence Canyon Aggregate Area
- Initiated Phase III soil sampling at Chaquehui Canyon AA

* = Consent Order Campaigns





Clean Up the Land: Recent MDAs Work



MDAs are Consent Order Campaigns





Ship Waste Off-Site



Shipping waste to off-site repositories is foundational to remediating legacy contamination at Los Alamos





Transuranic (TRU) Waste: Destined for WIPP



TRU waste drums
stored in Dome 232





Corrugated Metal Pipes: TRU & LLW

Once retrieved,
Corrugated Metal
Pipes (CMPs)
become part of
above-ground
inventory

Photo:
CMPs retrievals





LLW/Mixed LLW Containers at Technical Area (TA) 54



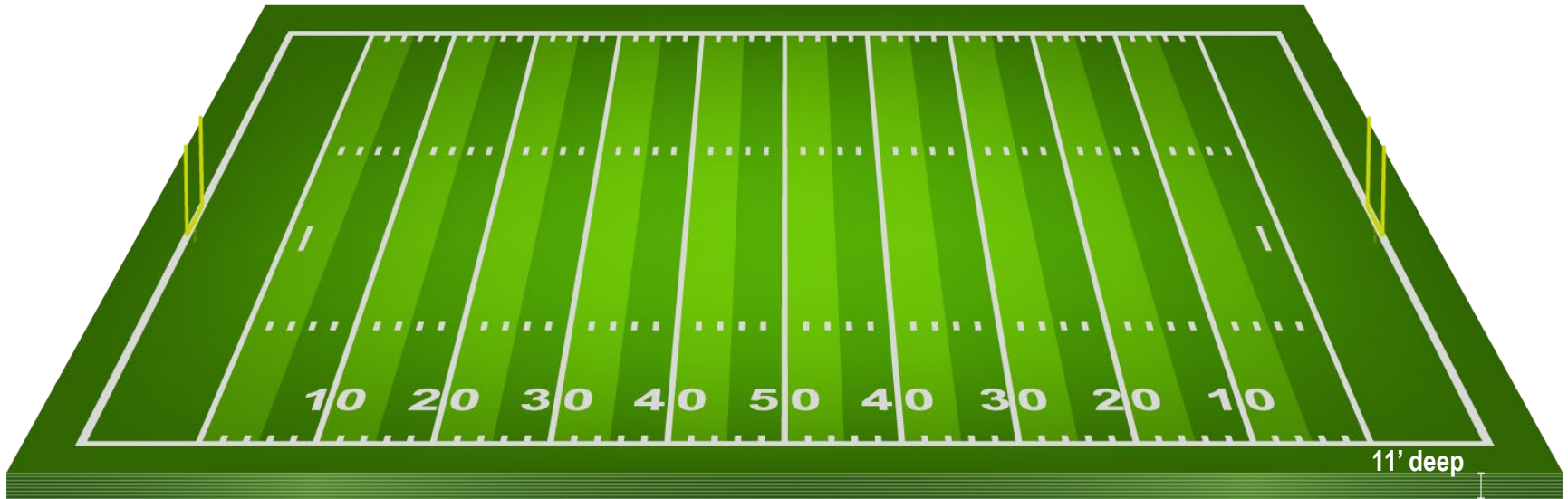
Fiscal Year (FY) 24 goal includes completing off-site shipment of the 451 legacy LLW/MLLW containers stored above-ground at the start of FY24. There were 1,883 containers at contract start; through June 2024, 113 remain.





Total Waste Shipments Summary

Waste Shipped Off-Site From Contract Start (4/30/18) to 6/30/24* = 18,241 cubic meters (m³)



Filling up 1 football field 11 feet deep
(bottom of goalposts are 10' high)



87,642 55-gallon drum equivalents

TRU = 575 m³

Low Level/Mixed = 13,509 m³

Hazardous = 277 m³

Other Wastes = 3,880 m³



*Does not include water shipped





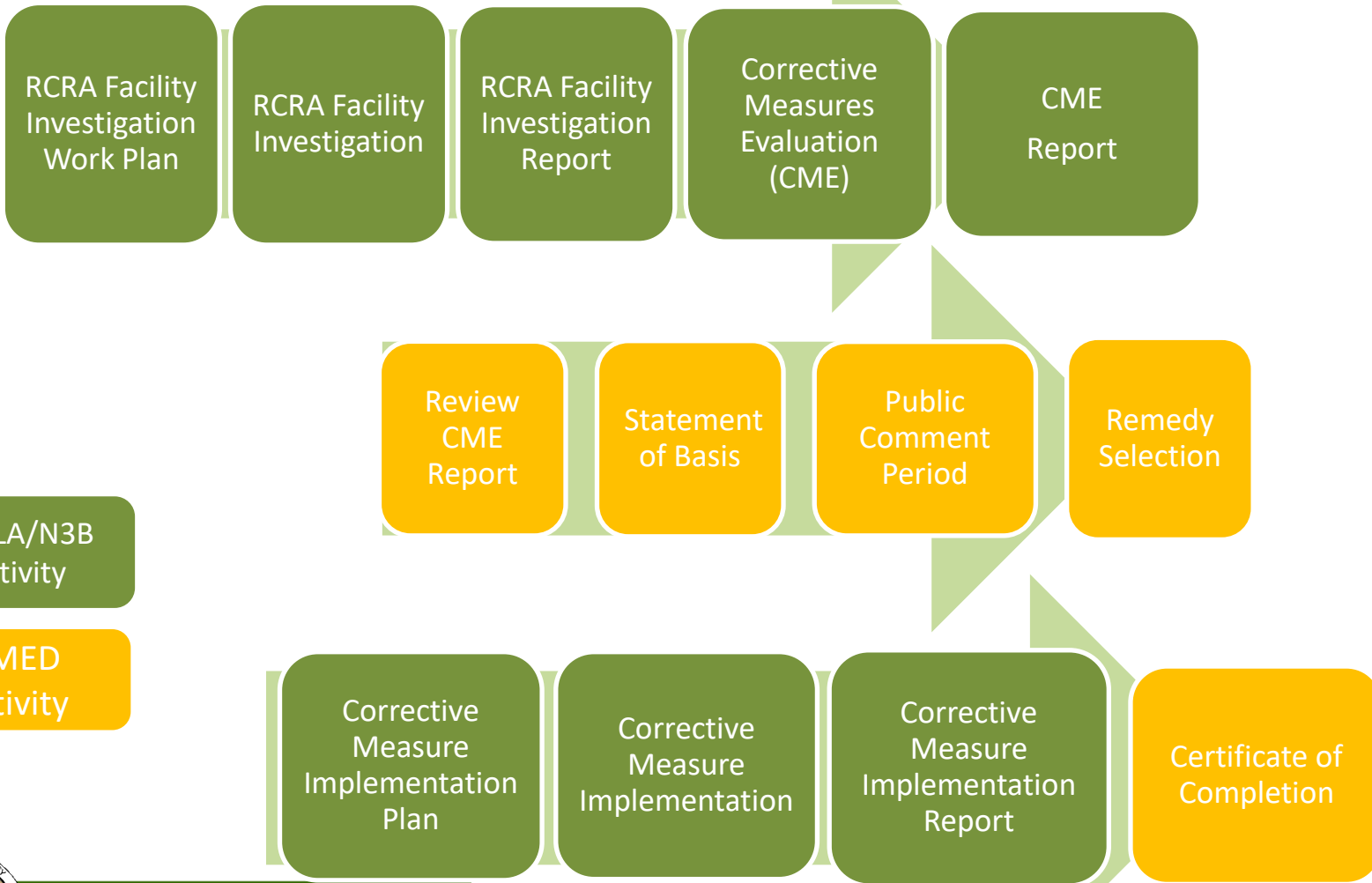
SAFETY IS JOB #1

- Safety in completing work
- Safety in cleanup decisions
- Safety in meeting regulatory requirements





Consent Order Corrective Action Process (where CME is required)



EM-LA/N3B Activity

NMED Activity





Consent Order Corrective Action Process (where CME is not required)



EM-LA/N3B
Activity

NMED
Activity





- ✓ Stakeholder & Community Engagement
- ✓ Pueblo Engagement
- ✓ EM-LA Strategic Vision
- ✓ Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
- ✓ Regulator Relationships



Message from the President



This summer marks my one-year anniversary as President and General Manager of N3B, a position I am deeply honored to hold. Over the past year, N3B has accomplished important milestones in our legacy cleanup mission at Los Alamos National Laboratory, while tackling various challenges and establishing the operational excellence foundation for long-term success. I am confident that N3B is well-positioned to continue to accomplish great things throughout the remainder of our current contract.

I would like to highlight five items that reflect our success and serve as the foundation for our future accomplishments.

First, N3B implemented the Mission Excellence Program. This initiative integrates safety, compliance, training, communication and quality control, institutionalizing best practices throughout our workforce, leading to safe, compliant, efficient and effective execution of our mission. We will continue to build on this foundation.

Second, the Aggregate Areas program expanded its reach to include work in five aggregate areas, the most we have ever addressed in a season. Coupled with completion of work at the Middle DP Road Site, the Environmental Remediation Program continues to ensure protection of human and environmental health remains at the core of N3B success.

Third, the N3B team remains steadfast in its multi-faceted approach to protecting water, New Mexico's most precious natural resource. Thanks to our team, nearby residents can rest assured that their water supplies are protected.

Fourth, the CH TRU program is on track to complete the Corrugated Metal Pipes (CMPs) retrieval and size reduction activities. A difficult project, beset with inherent challenges in digging up buried transuranic (TRU) waste and preparing it for shipment, N3B is making considerable progress to safely complete this first of a kind project.

Finally, EM-LA and N3B made important strides in strengthening our partnership. EM-LA has been our biggest supporter and insightful critic, helping ensure we ask the right questions and utilize the personnel and skills needed to achieve our long-term success. We look forward to further strengthening this important partnership with Jessica Kunkle, who assumed the role of EM-LA Field Office Manager on June 17.

I'm proud to work with the dedicated men and women here at N3B who every day are doing their part to advance our cleanup efforts and help build a strong future for the residents of northern New Mexico. With our strong team and a strong working relationship with EM-LA, N3B will continue to achieve great feats.

– Brad Smith

“I am confident that N3B is well-positioned to continue to accomplish great things throughout the remainder of our current contract.”

Highlights of the Quarter

- ✓ Met five milestones under the Consent Order, bringing the total met in FY24 to eight.
- ✓ Completed vapor sampling at MDA G, MDA T and MDA L.
- ✓ Submitted the MDA C periodic monitoring report for vapor sampling to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).
- ✓ Completed the FY 24 Quarter 3 White Rock Canyon General Surveillance sampling campaign.
- ✓ Completed the Airport Landfill Year 8 Quarter 4 inspection.
- ✓ Began soil sampling collection at the Chaquehui Canyon Aggregate Area, Technical Area 33.
- ✓ Received NMED Certificates of Completion for Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 16-017(j)-99 in the Upper Water Canyon Aggregate Area and for two SWMUs and four Areas of Concern in the Lower Water/Indio Canyons Aggregate Area.
- ✓ Shipped the final three waste bins from the Middle DP Road Project (MDPR) to Waste Control Specialists. The final shipments were delayed due to nesting migratory birds.
- ✓ Collected more than 3,200 gas, sediment, soil and water samples to support environmental remediation work.
- ✓ Continued making process on CMPs retrieval and size reduction activities.
- ✓ Initiated work package to allow for inspection of waste in Pit 9 through an inspection portal using a camera and radiological equipment to determine the condition of the waste after being buried for 50 years. The results will be applied to the design of the ventilated enclosure.
- ✓ Completed 46 shipments of radioactive, hazardous and other wastes, totaling 735.95 cubic meters (m³), equivalent to 3,536 55-gallon drums.
- ✓ Hosted Jeff Avery, DOE's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM-2), providing a tour of the Corrugated Metal Pipes (CMPs) project, TRU waste packaging and the Universal Drum Assay and Segregation System (UDASS), a new system to more accurately analyze the contents of radioactive waste drums.



State & Tribal Government Working Group (STGWG) - LANL Tour, May 7, 2024

June: National Safety Month

Safety remains N3B's priority. On June 12, Robert Edwards, N3B's Environment, Safety, Health and Quality Program manager, issued the following message to N3B employees:

"This month, the U.S. Department of Energy is raising awareness of the importance of following safe work practices in our personal and professional lives, maintaining a strong safety culture and promoting safety as a core value that supports mutual respect, trust and continuous improvement. Of course, we need to have this kind of vigilance every day of every month. But in June, let's all be hyper-focused on following safe work practices and creating a safe work environment for all employees. Be sure to observe, address and report unsafe conditions. Talk to your teammates about these issues and make them a meaningful part of daily work planning meetings. Maintaining this kind of heightened safety awareness for one month will naturally lead to an ongoing safety consciousness and will reinforce safety habits we will carry with us year-round. Remember – if you see something, please say something."

Supporting the Next Generation: N3B Sponsors 2024 Summer Physics Camp

On June 17, Nichole Lundgard, Engineering & Nuclear Safety Program manager, participated in the 8th Annual Summer Physics Camp for Young Women in New Mexico. Nichole presented at the Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Engineering, Radioactivity, Health Physics, Particles session. Estrella Davis, Rachel Duffield and Julia Naranjo led an interactive demonstration about ionizing radiation.

The free two-week camp explores topics related to energy and energy security, boosting students' understanding of STEM through hands-on activities, demonstrations, talks and a multi-day engineering project. For more camp information: <https://newmexicoconsortium.org/summer-physics-camp-for-young-women/>

Community Spotlight – LA Cares

In May, N3B donated \$12,000 to LA Cares, an independent, 100% volunteer organization providing food and other assistance to needy individuals and families in Los Alamos. In recent years, N3B employees raised approximately this amount for LA Cares through an annual fundraising golf event. That fundraiser is on hold this summer due to course renovations, so N3B made this contribution to ensure our employees' commitment to the organization was honored.

Founded in 1994, LA Cares supports community members through monthly food distribution and rent and utility assistance. Clients receive a bag of non-perishable products. Fresh produce, eggs, bread, meats, cheese and personal hygiene items are available. A limited amount of dog and cat food is available. If you are interested in becoming part of the LA Cares' program, visit their website at <https://www.lacaresnm.org/>



N3B meets with LA Cares



	FY24 to Date	Q3	Q2	Q1	FY23	Contract to Date
Protect Water Quality						
Storm water control inspections conducted	2,951	1,245	715	991	4,721	15,693
Water samples collected	3,253	1,385	907	961	3,622	22,770
Hexavalent chromium treated (million gallons) <small>*System shut down 3/31/23 per NMED directive.</small>	0.02*	0.02*	0*	0*	41.98*	424.52
Clean Up the Land						
Contaminated soil and debris dispositioned (m ³ = cubic meters)	639.5 m ³	425.3	168.2 m ³	46 m ³	3,434 m ³	7,602 m ³
Soil and sediment samples collected	3,947	1,631	876	1,440	4,549	15,549
Vapor samples collected	488	188	205	95	809	3,879
Ship Waste Off-site						
TRU waste shipments to WIPP	16	5	5	6	59	181
TRU waste volume shipped to WIPP	49.22 m ³	16.69	10.65 m ³	21.88 m ³	111.35 m ³	575.83 m ³
Area G mixed/low-level radioactive waste shipped off-site	661.85 m ³	285.61	257.56 m ³	118.68 m ³	428.39 m ³	3,117.43 m ³
Other mixed/low-level radioactive waste shipped off-site	681.63 m ³	433.65	195.12 m ³	52.86 m ³	3,456.57 m ³	10,392.28 m ³
Hazardous waste shipped off-site	3.76 m ³	0	0.65 m ³	3.11 m ³	11.17 m ³	277.19 m ³
Other waste streams shipped off-site	217.76 m ³	0	76.72 m ³	141.03 m ³	367.05 m ³	3,878.49 m ³
Total waste shipped off-site	1,614.22 m³	735.95	540.7 m³	337.56 m³	4,374.53 m³	18,241.22 m³
Business Operations and Stakeholder Engagement						
Meetings with stakeholders	60	26	22	12	98	352
Amount committed to small business (millions) (N3B only)	\$181.03	\$33.16	\$83.36	\$64.51	\$236.59	\$636.62
Percentage of subcontracts awarded to small business (N3B only)	92.84%	89.36%	91.12%	98.05%	79.13%	82.29%

2016 Consent Order Milestones		
FY24 - 8 of 15 (7 in progress)	FY23 - 14 of 14	Met 89 of 90 milestones ✓ (FY18* - FY23)
<small>*Three FY18 milestones met before N3B contract start.</small>		

BTN FY24 Q3 FINAL