



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

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March 26, 2024

Ms. Sarah "Ellie" Gilbertson, Acting Manager
Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office
1200 Trinity Drive, Suite 400
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Ms. Gilbertson,

I am pleased to enclose Recommendation 2024-01 "Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Priorities," which was unanimously approved by the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board during its meeting on March 20, 2024.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this recommendation. We look forward to the response from the Department of Energy.

Sincerely,

Patricio Pacheco
Chair, NNMCAB

Enclosure: a/s

Cc w/encl:

U. S. Senator Ben R. Lujan

U. S. Senator Martin Heinrich

U. S. Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez

Secretary James C. Kenney, NMED

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NNMCAB File

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Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board

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1 **NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS’ ADVISORY BOARD**
2 **Recommendation to the Department of Energy**
3 **No. 2024-01**
4 **Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Priorities**
5 **Drafted by: Elena Fernandez and Ad Hoc Committee**
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7 **Background**
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9 On March 30, 2016, the Northern New Mexico Citizens’ Advisory Board (NNMCAB) approved a
10 recommendation on budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2018. At the time of that writing, the majority of
11 recommendations for priority remediation and completion of those priorities have yet to be completed.
12 The reasoning for incomplete or not-yet completed clean-up has been due to several factors such as the
13 scope and scale of the work involved, newly discovered areas of contamination such as on DP Road, and
14 the unknown depth and width of the Hexavalent Chromium Plume.
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16 **Comments and Observations**
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18 Since the inception of the NNMCAB, the Department of Energy (DOE) has requested input from the
19 NNMCAB on development of top clean-up priorities for Environmental Management of Legacy Waste
20 at Los Alamos National Laboratory, the clean-up program which is under the purview of DOE/EM-LA
21 and performed by its remediation subcontractor Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC
22 (N3B). This recommendation is consistent with and in fulfillment of the NNMCAB’s opportunity and
23 responsibility.
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25 Based on the data and information available, and in the interest of the safety and well-being of the
26 regional environment (and in consideration of migration across all other downwind communities) and
27 environmental justice of land-based communities and New Mexico Tribal Sovereign Nations, the
28 NNMCAB is providing the following as our input for the Fiscal Year 2026 clean-up priorities, and for
29 concurrent implementations and activities. Public health, safety and environmental justice are some of
30 our highest priorities; therefore, we are hopeful that existing EM-LA legacy cleanup funding and future
31 funding be made available, and that Congress appropriates full base-line funding necessary for this
32 comprehensive clean-up effort.
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34 The current NNMCAB’s list of prioritized projects is nearly identical to that of the 2016
35 recommendations and consists of projects that ought to receive priority in the form of increased funding
36 and resources sufficient to complete them. However, such activities should not be undertaken at the
37 expense of nor detriment to other on-going clean-up efforts, nor at the expense nor detriment of that
38 work and those facilities and operations that make clean-up possible. Furthermore, the NNMCAB has
39 ranked facilities and projects for increased funding and resources based upon areas of concern and risks
40 to human, ecological and environmental health and safety. The NNMCAB also recommends that the
41 identified projects should be reasonably implemented and completed concurrently.
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Recommendation

Facilities	Projects
<p>1. Above-ground storage dome: Continued reskinning for continued safe storage.</p> <p>2. Work Areas: Ensure workers have access to adequate: heating, cooling, facilities, and safety features that ensure worker safety and security that support mitigation or reduction of exposures to environmental health hazards in addition to those in place for hazardous work.</p>	<p>1. Hexavalent Chromium Plume (Cr VI): DOE/EM-LA should concentrate efforts on resuming and completing the remediation of the Cr (VI) plume that is also a priority under the <i>2016 Order on Consent</i> and as agreed to by the NMED and DOE/EM-LA (NMED and DOE, 2017).</p> <p>2. CH-TRU Waste Removal to WIPP</p> <p>3. Watershed remediation</p> <p>4. Technical Area 21 Continuance of efforts to remediate and transfer land to Los Alamos County.</p> <p>5. Material Disposal Areas: MDA A & B MDA H MDA L</p>

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Intent

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It is the intent of this recommendation that the NNMCAB provide input into developing the budget priorities for FY 2026. It is also the intent of this recommendation to support compliance with federal and local regulations to the greatest extent possible. This will ensure effective and safe remediation based on the best available science and data possible that are all technically and regulatorily defensible. It is also the intent of this recommendation that the funding is adequately and appropriately provided to ensure continuing clean-up efforts, that also helps to ensure and enable DOE/EM-LA to make significant progress if not completion of campaigns (these and all) within a reasonable timeframe.

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References

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1. Flynn, R. (2016, March 30). New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) presentation to the New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board on the Revised Consent Order [Power Point Presentation]. Retrieved from <https://www.energy.gov/em/nnmcab/articles/nmed-revised-lanl-consent-order-draft-march-2016>
2. NMED and DOE. (2017, February 17). *2016 Compliance Order on Consent*. Retrieved from https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2020/01/f70/2016%20Consent%20Order_February%2017.pdf