



REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES

City of Española – Los Alamos County – Rio Arriba County – Santa Fe County
City of Santa Fe – Taos County – Town of Taos – Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh

REGIONAL COALITION MEETING PACKET

County of Santa Fe, County Chambers

102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe

MARCH 21, 2014

CONTENTS

Current Internal Documents

- Meeting Agenda and Presenter List
- February 21 Meeting Minutes
- Receipts and Disbursements Summary

Internal Documents for Review

- Strategic Plan
- Bylaws

Other

- Reports on Washington DC Trip

Local Government Resolutions

- Okay Owingeh Pueblo

Press Information

- Article from Los Alamos Monitor – *Coalition Lobbies for Clean-up Funding*

Information on Issues

- New Budget for LANL* – Santa Fe New Mexican
- CMRR Facility - Santa Fe New Mexican
- ECA letter re: WIPP
- President's Budget – Environmental Management

CURRENT INTERNAL DOCUMENTS



REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES

City of Española – Los Alamos County – Rio Arriba County – Santa Fe County
City of Santa Fe – Taos County – Town of Taos – Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh

REGIONAL COALITION MEETING AGENDA

Santa Fe County Chambers
102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe
MARCH 21, 2014

9:00	Info: Welcome & Introductions Action: Confirmation of Quorum Action: Approval of Minutes: February 21, 2014 Info: Financial Information	Comm. Mayfield Comm. Mayfield Board Members Brian Bosshardt
9:10	Info: Reports from Congressional Delegations	
9:20	Info: Executive Director Report Washington DC Trip Subcontractor Issue Update Feynman Center Economic Development Report Coalition Organizational Matters	Darien Cabral JLH Team
9:25	Action: Election of Officers	Comm. Mayfield
9:35	Info: MDA G Cleanup Overview and Status FY14 Cleanup Scope & Priorities	Pete Maggiore Jeff Mousseau
10:50	Info: Public Comment	Elected Chair
11:00	Action: Adjourn	Elected Chair

Presenters:

Pete Maggiore - is Deputy Assistant Manager for the Environmental Projects Office at the DOE Los Alamos Site Office. He is a Certified Professional Geologist with a Masters Degree in geology and 30 years of experience in environmental management, hydrogeology and geology. From July 1998 through August 2002, he served as Secretary for the New Mexico Environment Department. Mr. Maggiore primary responsibilities are to function as the Chief Operating Officer in managing the legacy cleanup and RCRA permitting for Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Jeff Mousseau - is the Director for Environmental Programs at LANL. Prior to this appointment, he worked as a senior project manager for the Laboratory's transuranic waste disposal program. Mousseau has more than 30 years' experience in the field of nuclear waste management, including 20 years at U.S. Department of Energy sites in Idaho and New Mexico. Before coming to Los Alamos, he served as president of Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC, the management and operations contractor for the DOE's Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) at the Idaho National Laboratory. The largest transuranic waste project in the Department of Energy complex, AMWTP safely shipped more than 40,000 cubic meters of transuranic waste for permanent disposal during Mousseau's tenure.

About the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities:

The Regional Coalition is comprised of eight cities and counties surrounding the Department of Energy's Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Founded in 2011, the Regional Coalition works in partnership to ensure national decisions incorporate local needs and concerns. The organization's focus is environmental remediation, regional economic development and site employment, and adequate funding for LANL. The Board of Directors includes Chair, Mayor David Coss, City of Santa Fe; Vice-Chair, Commissioner Danny Mayfield, Santa Fe County; Sect./Treas. Councilor Andrew Gonzales, Town of Taos; Mayor Alice Lucero, City of Española; County Councilor Fran Berting, Los Alamos County Council; Commissioner Alfredo Montoya, Rio Arriba County; Commissioner Tom Blankenhorn, Taos County; and Governor Ron Lovato, Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing of the meeting, please contact the Coalition Office at (505) 577-1347 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the coalition at (505) 577-1347 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

For more information please visit the Regional Coalition website at <http://regionalcoalition.org>

Contact: Jennifer Padilla, JLH Media

518 Old Santa Fe Trail #Santa Fe, NM 87505

office (505) 577-1347



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES
City of Espanola – Los Alamos County – Rio Arriba County – Santa Fe County –
City of Santa Fe – Taos County – Town of Taos – Pueblo of Ohkay

Espanola Convento Museum
Friday, February 21, 2013

Attendance

Mayor David Coss (Chair RCLC), Mayor Alice Lucero (Vice-Chair RCLC), County Commissioner Danny Mayfield (Secretary/Treasurer RCLC), Councilor Fran Berting, Secretary/Treasurer Andrew Gonzales, County Commissioner Tom Blankenhorn, Governor Ron Lovato, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo and Deputy Manager David Trujillo, alternate for Rio Arriba County.

JLH Media team members Darien Cabral, Jennifer Padilla, and Lisa Neal.

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Mayor Coss called the meeting to order at 9:24am. All coalition members introduced themselves to the audience. Of particular note, Mayor Alice Lucero, spoke about the location that the meeting was being held at, in particular the history and artwork.

Members of the public in attendance introduced themselves to the coalition.

Chair Mayor Coss thanked State Representative Stephanie Garcia-Richard of Los Alamos for attending the meeting just one-day after the legislative session ended.

Confirmation of Quorum

Chair Mayor Coss confirmed a quorum and noted that it was one of the best turnouts in a while and thanked everyone for attending.

Approval of Minutes: January 17, 2014

Jennifer Padilla noted that a number of changes would be made to the public comment section of the January minutes. She said that they were minor, non-substantive changes and that we appreciate the public’s input.

Motion: To approve the minutes from January 17, 2014 **Moved by** Secretary/Treasurer Andrew Gonzales, **Seconded by** Commissioner Mayfield.

Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = unanimous).

1 **Financial Information:**

2 Chair Mayor Coss asked Brian Bosshardt to speak about the financial information; he noted
3 the monthly payment to RCLC Executive Director, JLH Media. The Coalition has received
4 reimbursable money from a Department of Energy grant in the amount of \$72,000.
5

6 **Reports from Congressional Delegations**

7 Michelle Jaquez-Ortiz from Senator Udall's office reported that they are waiting for the
8 president's budget to come out, target date, week of March 4th. Senator Udall will drop a bill
9 dealing with lab directed research and development. Currently it is capped at 4%; however
10 the Senator would like to restore the 8% cap to provide facilities with more spending
11 flexibility for research and development. Jaquez-Ortiz complimented Mayor Coss and
12 thanked him for his generous service on the RCLC on behalf of Senator Udall.
13

14 Katie Richardson, Senator Heinrich's office: Mike Sullivan is now the statewide outreach
15 director. Katie is now field representative to Los Alamos County and the Labs. The
16 congressional delegation has contacted the New Mexico Environment Department, in
17 relation to the WIPP incident, to ensure health of community in regards to plutonium
18 detection. The detected levels are well below any EPA limits and it is a safe environment
19 above ground. It may take up to 3 weeks to clear up problems at the Waste Isolation Pilot
20 Plant (WIPP) and get workers back in.
21

22 **Prior to the Executive Director Report a Resolution Honoring Mayor Coss -**

23 Commissioner Danny Mayfield said he appreciated collaborating with Mayor Coss and said
24 he will be missed by colleagues and the community. Chairman Coss was presented with a
25 book entitled 'Art Journey of NM' as a token of the Coalition's appreciation for his service.
26 The board then read a resolution honoring the service of the outstanding Chairman/Mayor
27 Coss on the RCLC.
28

29 Councilor Berting echoed earlier sentiments regarding Mayor Coss.
30

31 Commissioner Andrew Gonzales thanked him for his leadership and guidance, especially
32 concerning environmental cleanup. He spoke about the information that Mayor Coss
33 provided which was invaluable to the RCLC, Gonzales will miss him.
34

35 Mayor Alice Lucero thanked him for being the first chairman of the coalition, saying that he
36 set the standard for the future chair. She stated that the people of the region have benefited
37 from his service, knowledge and expertise. Mayor Coss was always there to help her and she
38 appreciates the friendship.
39

40 Commissioner Tom Blankenhorn stated that he has been impressed with Mayor Coss's time
41 as chair and will miss him, but he hopes to work together again.
42

43 Governor Ron Lovato thanked him on behalf of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo stating that he had
44 provided leadership for the new organization and helped in dealing with all the public
45 officials involved. He said that Mayor Coss did a great job and wished him nothing but the
46 best.
47
48
49
50

1 **Darien Cabral: Executive Director Report, JLH Team**

2 Mr. Cabral started off by stating that he has been with RCLC for about three months and is
3 extremely impressed with level of support and expertise of everyone on the board and
4 everyone the RCLC works with. Thanked everyone, including Mayor Coss.

5
6 Cabral acknowledged the busy schedules of the elected officials and the necessity of
7 generating fast decisions from complex information. Rather than form committees, which
8 may have violated the Open Meetings Act, ad hoc study groups are being held to make
9 recommendations to the board. The Board directs those groups, which then provide
10 insights to the Board enabling them to make decisions.

11
12 One of the groups involved education, for which they met with Commissioners Gonzales &
13 Blankenhorn in Taos. Andrew Gonzales discussed the College for America initiative in Taos.
14 Tom Blankenhorn spoke about private or public organizations offering education
15 opportunities for their employees. The program offers classes geared towards real world
16 topics and is \$2,500. Federal financial aid is available for these types of classes.

17
18 Mr. Cabral has been meeting with Chris Madrid, economic development director for the
19 Taos area. There are two Internet based companies in Taos, Brown Rice and SeriousWare,
20 and they cannot find qualified employees in the area. SeriousWare is considering leaving
21 Taos because there are not enough skilled people in the workforce to meet their employee
22 needs. He met with Kurt Steinhouse & Carol Rutten and discussed the Sandia High Tech
23 Academy model that has been in place for 15 years. There is a possibility to emulate that
24 program and connect education directly with jobs.

25
26 This particular program started out in a low-income area high school in Albuquerque. The
27 program brought in scientists from Sandia and focused on photonics. Anyone who was
28 interested in studying this career field could sign up for the program. They were given
29 internships while in high school. After graduation from college they would be guaranteed a
30 job at Sandia Laboratory in this field. This program allowed for the retention of young
31 graduates who were able to stay and work in New Mexico, rather than leaving to find work.
32 This model could also work in the private sector to address lack of skilled workers. It could
33 provide paths for students to follow into the private sector with the right mentorship. LANL
34 spent \$70M on educational programs last year. LANL is attempting to implement this
35 model. RCLC may coordinate with LANL and hold an education day to determine how more
36 people can benefit from these educational programs. One of the keys is advertising it among
37 students in the region. The other mandates or areas of emphasis, including workforce
38 training/economic development, may have been ignored in the past. They are now looking
39 at putting more emphasis on these areas.

40
41 Mr. Cabral gave a special welcome to former Governor of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Ron
42 Lovato. The importance of RCLC working with the Pueblos and increasing membership from
43 them in order to make the Coalition more effective was noted. The voice of RCLC is stronger
44 as a unified group. Every tribe is different and unique. The generations of people that
45 contribute to this area are embedded. There are no stronger roots than the
46 indigenous/native people of this area. When there is talk about environmental cleanup it
47 has more meaning to the native people and the Pueblos. The Pueblos have a special status
48 as sovereign entities and can bring a lot of benefits to the region. They can market to the
49 government, create joint venture companies, and provide special financing that you cannot

1 get with any other organization. Mr. Cabral would like to sit with Governor Lovato and
2 brainstorm on how to utilize Pueblos in a more effective manner.

3
4 There is no presentation from DOE & NMED this month because they are working on
5 environmental cleanup priorities to create a new environmental consent decree. This will
6 be presented at next month's meeting.

7
8 This makes for more of a challenge while looking for funding in Washington DC; it is
9 stronger if there is a particular project you can talk about. Mr. Cabral indicated they are
10 going without a specific project in mind, but will still make a very strong case. The ECA
11 Director, Seth Kirschenberg, is helping to put together important talking points for the trip.
12 The old consent decree from 2005 was never funded; therefore cleanup has been behind
13 schedule from day one. When extra funding was available last year it was used for the 3076
14 program to cleanup aboveground waste, which was a big success. This is proof that if
15 funding is available positive things will happen. The direction they will take in Washington
16 DC will address the idea of a stable funding source at \$255 million per year.

17
18 Another message being taken to Washington is the subcontractor issue, of which only two
19 companies qualify for the supply chain management center certification. When the sales
20 manager from a company that qualifies, says that basically no other state company can
21 qualify, there are issues. Mr. Cabral has been working with Liddy Martinez, Kurt Steinhouse
22 and Jeff Lundsford to determine how not to lose 100's of jobs and thousands of dollars. They
23 are hoping to work with local business subcontractors in order to keep them working with
24 LANL.

25
26 Mr. Cabral announced that Representative Stephanie Garcia-Richards put through a
27 memorial during the 2014 session of the State of NM, which stated concern for the issue and
28 supported changes in the Federal regulations.

29
30 Representative Stephanie Garcia-Richards discussed the memorial in support of the federal
31 contractor issue. She noted the ripple effect when contracts are lost. State support is behind
32 the contractors. STEM Education is something she is working on as well including tech-
33 transfers and grant funding opportunities. State leadership has gotten behind some of these
34 job initiatives and she hopes to work with RCLC on some of these ideas.

35
36 Mr. Cabral referenced the SharePoint site with the interactive component for board
37 members and the ad hoc groups/committees. There has been a lot of talk about Area G and
38 the other issues regarding environmental mediation. There are various presentations linked
39 on the site regarding these issues. The more everyone knows about this, the better off
40 everyone is. Access information will be sent out to all board members. This will allow the
41 board to put information and data on the site as well. The sites will evolve and be updated
42 so that they will be current. Commissioner Mayfield noted that there are other groups that
43 have made presentations to the NM Citizens Advisory Board; he would like to see links to
44 their presentations as well. Mr. Cabral noted that as a board member, Commissioner
45 Mayfield could put those on himself. The regional coalition website may already have those
46 links, but they will be updated. It was suggested that a SharePoint presentation be given at
47 one of the next meetings so that all members of the public could see it. Mr. Cabral indicated
48 he was prepared to do that, but with no Wi-Fi access in the building, it would have to wait
49 until the next meeting.

50

1 An audience member noted that she had looked at the website and there was no agenda for
2 the meeting or minutes from the last meeting. Also, there was no address for where the
3 meeting was being held for the public to see, so they might not have been able to find the
4 meeting. Mr. Cabral noted that the venue was changed at the last minute, but people were
5 told at the City Hall of Espanola to send people to the correct location. There was discussion
6 of the meeting packet being sent out in advance of the meeting; the indication was that it
7 was sent out a week prior to the meeting.

8
9 Jennifer Padilla indicated that any public member interested in receiving the packet can
10 sign-up at the RCLC website to receive it by e-mail. However, minutes were not included
11 this past time because they had yet to be approved by the board. Mr. Cabral noted this is a
12 learning process and they will continue to smooth out the process.

13
14 Mr. Cabral stated that it is important to revisit the strategic plan. He is looking at different
15 initiatives and people to work with, but the plan has not been updated in over a year. He
16 will figure out a way to update the strategic plan through virtual meetings. Commissioner
17 Gonzales said he would like to meet in-person for one-day to deal with the strategic plan
18 and set a solid foundation for the plan. The Board indicated they would like to plan a day for
19 this. Commissioner Gonzales asked for it to be the day before the regular meeting. Mr.
20 Cabral noted the timing is right because there may be new board members in the near
21 future due to elections.

22
23 Jennifer Padilla reviewed the website, which included what was done to clean up and revise
24 the website. She asked for suggestions for content and links to various organizations. She
25 noted that schedule of the meetings will be on the website for the entire year. There is a
26 need for information on SharePoint to be tied into the RCLC website.

27
28 She provided an update on the letter to the editor of the Taos News, noting that a copy was
29 included in the packets. She talked about the factsheet that simplifies some of the messages,
30 which was developed for the media and explains what RCLC does. There was an
31 opportunity to get information out about RCLC with the Green Fire Times; an article on the
32 RCLC will be featured in March issue. There is also a press release on the Washington DC
33 trip, which will explain to local media what RCLC is about and why they are heading to DC.
34 She worked with Mayor Coss' office to draft an environmental mission statement. In
35 addition, Padilla worked on planning the DC trip with Seth Kirshenberg.

36
37 **Update - Washington D.C. Trip Darien Cabral**

38 Mr. Cabral summarized what was going to take place with next week's trip to DC, which will
39 be three-days of meeting with the congressional delegation and the NNSA (National Nuclear
40 Security Administration) people. There will be two-days of meeting with the ECA (Energy
41 Communities Alliance). Peer review session with ECA, the agenda is on the SharePoint site
42 for that, and then board meetings afterwards. He will raise the subcontractor issue, because
43 it is a national issue, which affects LANL and Sandia Labs. Cabral noted that it is affecting
44 NM more than other states as we are more reliant on federal dollars, more than other states.
45 RCLC will be working with SCMC who had a meeting with the sub contractor's consortium
46 at LANL. It is important for all parties to work together in order to get something done. The
47 people that are going to Washington include: David Trujillo, Commissioner Mayfield &
48 Berting, Mayor Coss, Brian Bosshardt, Jennifer Padilla and Darien Cabral.

1 **Revised Federal Legislative Priorities**

2 Mayor Coss has indicated that these are all on the website. This is a very timely item
3 because of the Washington DC trip and wanting to make sure the message is on point.

4
5 Brian Bosshardt: clarified that the 4th bullet had had some minor modifications, namely, the
6 removal of the word “Modernization.”

7
8 Mayor Coss read the resolution and then asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner
9 Mayfield noted that at the last meeting, Seth Kirschenberg stated the potential for an 18
10 member commission to discuss potential lab consolidation. He referred to the previous
11 meeting minutes, page 12, and the third paragraph. He thought that was going to be
12 included in the resolution and in the discussion with the federal delegation in Washington.
13 It related to how the labs work together, which ones are critical and how they relate to
14 BRACK issues. It is not too early to start talking to our delegation during the DC trip. Mayor
15 Coss wanted to know if it would be suggested as a bullet under the LANL category.
16 Commissioner Mayfield indicated it could go in the ‘other’ category. Councilor Berting
17 wanted to know where the coalition was at this point and to have more of a background,
18 although there would not be time before the DC trip. Commissioner Mayfield thought it was
19 important to start that dialogue with the local delegation.

20
21 Brian Bosshardt indicated that the commission has not been named yet, but it will be
22 shortly. He thinks it relates to the LANL bullet and talking points with Seth Kirschenberg
23 and the congressional delegation.

24
25 Commissioner Mayfield also brought up what was going on at WIPP right now and wanted
26 to know if that was going to be addressed with the congressional delegation. That could also
27 be under the LANL bullet.

28
29 Mayor Coss stated that WIPP could change a lot of things, although the investigation is early.
30 He thought it was a good point.

31
32 Commissioner Gonzales indicated that this may be more than cleanup related and so more
33 thought might need to be put into the LANL bullet. Mayor Coss indicated that there were
34 other items associated with that bullet other than cleanup.

35
36 Brian Bosshardt told the board that the purpose of the bullet was to indicate the
37 diversification of the LANL mission and to work on increased funding. Mayor Coss indicated
38 that the coalition is not supporting modernization or CMRR and that it is important to keep
39 reminding people that the focus is cleanup.

40
41 Governor Lovato said the language is fine. He thinks to the RCLC should support and
42 advocate for LANL, including its work in the nuclear fields. There is a lot of potential that
43 can happen in the future for our area and country.

44
45 Councilor Gonzales would like to see the full funding dollar amount in the language.
46 Commissioner Mayfield spoke about a figure of \$450 million that was mentioned in a
47 previous meeting. Although he indicated he would have to refer back to his notes.

48
49 **Motion:** To approve the resolution for Federal Legislative Priorities 2014, with the
50 language as present **Moved by** Mayor Alice Lucero, **Seconded by** Councilor Fran Berting

1
2 **Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = unanimous).

3 Roll Call Vote
4 Councilor Berting – Yes
5 Commissioner Mayfield – Yes
6 Councilor Gonzales – Yes
7 Chairman Coss – Yes
8 Mayor Lucero – Yes
9 Commissioner Blankenhorn – Yes

10
11 **Proposed Resolution – Subcontractor Issue**

12 Mayor Coss read the proposed resolution.

13
14 Mayor Lucero indicated that the City of Espanola adopted a similar resolution at the last
15 City Council meeting.

16
17 Councilor Berting thinks that is it important to approve this.

18
19 Commissioner Mayfield supports this resolution and thanked Liddy Martinez.

20
21 Liddy Martinez mentioned efforts to get the memorial began with the first meeting of the
22 Rio Arriba network. Thanked the new chamber director, a county representative and
23 Representative Stephanie Garcia-Richard. She thinks it is great to see a community come
24 together and deal with an issue like this.

25
26 **Motion:** To approve the resolution related to subcontractor issues **Moved by** Mayor Alice
27 Lucero, **Seconded by** Councilor Fran Berting

28
29 **Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = unanimous).

30 Roll Call Vote
31 Councilor Berting – Yes
32 Commissioner Mayfield – Yes
33 Councilor Gonzales – Yes
34 Chairman Coss – Yes
35 Mayor Lucero – Yes
36 Commissioner Blankenhorn – Yes
37 Deputy Manager Trujillo - Yes

38
39 **Proposed Environmental Statement**

40 Mayor Coss indicated that this resolution is near and dear to his heart and that this is an
41 important item take to take to DC. He added a few more things have been added to the
42 statement. He indicated they are not sure what next issue will be although they will be
43 lobbying for funding. He wants to continue the cleanup and get the environment back to
44 how it was years ago. Mayor Coss read through the revised copy.

45
46 Mr. Cabral commented that these are not easy issues. He referenced a report on Area G and
47 he was impressed with it. The amount of study that goes into this area is also impressive.
48 There is a tremendous amount of remediation that goes into these areas. There is a delicate
49 balance between not being too specific and making recommendations that are achievable.

50

1 Councilor Fran Berting indicated that items 5 & 6 are good. The cap and cover is too specific.
2 There is a lot of technicality that has been studied for years. Being specific will weaken the
3 discussion and she wants to give people the option to do what's best for Northern NM. The
4 councilor would like to strike portion of sentence referring to cap and cover.

5
6 Commissioner Mayfield asked how the initial draft was created.

7
8 Jennifer Padilla indicated that Mayor Coss's office created initial draft, although both Alex
9 and Jennifer worked on revisions.

10
11 Commissioner Mayfield said this board needs information created by all groups in the
12 community, rather than producing these types of documents by themselves. He said that
13 Paragraph 3 or bullet 3 could be read a lot of different ways. Stated his concern for
14 groundwater and thought it should be made a priority. He does not know how to prioritize
15 issues. Regarding cap and cover, is there another word that could be used instead? He
16 indicated that LANL is not opposed to cap and cover. He referenced Area 54 and dumping in
17 unlined pits and his other environmental concerns.

18
19 Mayor Alice Lucero stated that she had asked for more environmental presentations during
20 the November 2013 meeting so the board could have more and make more informed
21 decisions on environmental remediation. She still wants to see that presentation happens.
22 She is for cleanup, but is concerned about costs and whether it is achievable. She does not
23 want to eliminate alternative cleanup measures. She is concerned about being more open in
24 the document and not so specific.

25
26 Councilor Andrew Gonzales does not want to take the least expensive action and settle for
27 the least expensive alternative. Cap and cover may not be the right word, but wants the
28 remediation to be done correctly. Does not want to lobby for increased missions and then
29 have to settle for the least expensive way to cleanup.

30
31 Mayor Coss stated that cap and cover might be a non-technical buzz phrase. He indicated
32 that he is fine with bullet #3. There is also acceptance of bullet #5 and #6, so that put them
33 back to paragraph 2. He would like to strike "cap and cover" from the document. Coss hates
34 to argue over the federal regulations and having to monitor their cleanup actions into the
35 future. He is concerned over contamination at WIPP and now there is a leak, it bothers him
36 a lot. This is a very complex issue and Area G does not take priority over any other issue. He
37 does not like the idea of monitoring a site for perpetuity.

38
39 Commissioner Blankenhorn liked Coss's rephrasing and thinks it relieves some of the
40 concerns. From a practical standpoint, Area G will not be dug up any time soon because of
41 monetary issues. He wants to maintain a realistic approach in this document. He shares
42 Coss's concerns and likes the changes Coss recommended. We prefer solutions that are not
43 just dollar based, but are also based on real concerns about the environment.

44
45 Commissioner Mayfield said point #5 related to full public participation, which should
46 always be a full priority. Does that include local and pueblo government officials? He wants
47 all coalition members to have a voice in this, because they all heard from their communities.

48
49 Councilor Berting moved to approve the document with the changes that Mayor Coss
50 recommended, although point 3 would stay the same as the version in the packet.

1
2 **Motion:** To approve the resolution related to the proposed environmental statement
3 **Moved by** Councilor Berting, **Seconded by** Commissioner Mayfield

4
5 **Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = unanimous).

6 Roll Call Vote

7 Councilor Berting – Yes

8 Commissioner Mayfield – Yes

9 Councilor Gonzales – Yes

10 Chairman Coss – Yes

11 Mayor Lucero – Yes

12 Commissioner Blankenhorn – Yes

13 Deputy Manager Trujillo – Yes

14
15 **Public Comment**

16
17 **Commenter #1:** from Santa Fe: He thanked Mayor Coss for all he's done. He is pleased with
18 the passing of the environmental statement. Mr. Coughlan explained that cap and cover is a
19 term used by the NM Environmental Department. Noted a formal proposal to implement
20 cap and cover of Area G and that approval from NMED could happen at any time. Once
21 NMED approves cap and cover of Area G, it cannot be undone. Hoped the coalition would
22 take action on this before NMED approves that.

23
24 He had a correction to the minutes from January; his quote that no permanent jobs would
25 be created, not the word pertinent. LANL is not creating any permanent jobs. The \$6B
26 plutonium project creates no new permanent jobs while Area G cleanup would create a
27 series of permanent 20-30 year jobs.

28
29 The environment Federal priorities were approved for lobbying next week. He is concerned
30 over support for future consent orders and asked them to reconsider at a future meeting.
31 The RCLC should not express support for a future document that has not been created yet in
32 regards to cleanup.

33
34 The present gubernatorial administration has eviscerated the consent order on cleanup.
35 You do not want to rely on the next governor/administration for what that consent order
36 should be. You cannot sign a contract without knowing what the provisions will be in the
37 future.

38
39 **Commenter #2:** from Santa Clara Pueblo: hopes coalition will maintain cleanup as a
40 priority.

41
42 She is concerned about supporting the diversification of LANL missions and does not want
43 elected officials to lobby for a for-profit corporation. She urged that cap and cover not be
44 done because of the impact on indigenous people. She stated that tribes had lost access to
45 sacred sites. She noted that she and her family gather plants seasonally and hunt for game
46 in areas affected. She is concerned about how above ground waste affects her family from
47 Area G. She would like the coalition to focus solely on cleanup and nothing else. She said
48 that the RCLC's efforts concerning economic development had not had any benefit.

49
50 LANL location was chosen for secrecy not safety. She noted seismic concerns and

1 groundwater contamination. She said pueblo people rely on the water where these aquifers
2 are located. Stated concerns over cancer in her community. She respects the work that the
3 coalition does. Spoke on behalf of her family and the pueblo community. She noted a
4 spiritual and emotional damage created by nuclear waste.

5
6 **Commenter #3:** Greenwater Time Reporter stated that the nuclear issue is extremely
7 important. She disagrees with the removal of the phrase cap and cover and feels it is an
8 important term. She is concerned over damage to pueblo peoples. Has lived in this
9 community for 40 years and wants the Coalition to consider environmental issues. She
10 wants the land returned to the pristine state it was in 75 years ago.

11
12 **Commenter #4:** Thanked the coalition for passing the resolution related to the
13 environment. Thanked Beata for bringing humanity to the room. She wants the presentation
14 requested by Mayor Lucero to happen. She is against cap and cover and disagrees with the
15 removal of this language. She noted a conflict of interest of Fran Berting and Darien Cabral,
16 as they have a vested interest in the work of the Labs. She commented on previous meeting
17 minutes and corrections that are needed.

18
19 **Commenter #4:** from Taos, recommended a book called Full Body Burden that deals with
20 environmental damage referenced in the book. She gave a quick summary of the book and
21 tied it into RCLC being similar to the organization at Rocky Flats. She spoke about global
22 warming and having the courage to speak out about cap and cover. She urged them to take a
23 more courageous stance. Other comments were inaudible.

24
25 **Commenter #5:** from Taos: she indicated that she sent in corrections to the minutes.
26 Nuclear weapons should not be a mission of LANL here or anywhere and their mission
27 should be changed. All decisions affect everyone. It is time to think about humanity and the
28 future should be considered. Other comments were inaudible.

29
30 Kathy Keith of the RDC addressed the audience and noted that the Venture Acceleration
31 Fund (VAF) is a seed fund for new businesses in our region. The fund began in 2008, with
32 two business applying. Last year 41 applications were received. Applications are due march
33 21st, a business can apply for \$100k in seed money to start a business. They hope to have a
34 great class this year and would be happy to work with anyone.

35
36 Councilor Andrew Gonzales thanked the public for their comments. He read a quote from
37 the book Full Body Burden. Noted that no one on the coalition is a scientist and there is a
38 need for more information and more studies. He stated that the public is well-versed in
39 these issues and that the coalition is in a place to act on the greater good of the community.
40 He thinks the government is trying to do what is right because our weapons have never
41 been used against American citizens. The coalition is trying to do what is right for the state
42 and for future generations. Thanked the public for attending and engaging in the process.

43
44 A public commenter from Santa Clara Pueblo talked about a memorial and then branched
45 off to the Trinity Test Site and the cancer rates in that community.

46
47 Mayor Coss stated it has been an honor to serve on this committee. He learned how
48 important LANL is and the very important mission of the coalition and that it has made a
49 difference. He indicated that it is important to continue local and tribal relationships. In
50 growing up in Santa Fe he testified that northern New Mexican's are as patriotic as anyone

1 in this country. Has talked to people with illness and cancer and has also seen people
2 become middle class and become educated as a result of LANL. There is a considerable
3 amount to learn from local groups that come to the meetings.
4

5 He noted the importance of LANL contractors and of continuing education and economic
6 development opportunities. He believes LANL is critical to our national security and that we
7 are the top scientific county, but should not produce or consider the use of nuclear
8 weapons. He quoted Eisenhower's concern over the military industrial complex.
9 Communities in NM have been here for more than 1,000 years and we need to create a
10 future in science, education, and economical development, but not in nuclear weapons.
11

12 This coalition needs to take a position on behalf of Northern NM for a future that does not
13 include nuclear weapons. The coalition has a lot of work to do and needs to remain open to
14 the messages from constituents.
15

16 Mayor Coss adjourned the meeting at 11:45 A.M.
17
18
19
20

21 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:45 A.M**
22

23 _____
24 Darien Cabral
25 Director
26

27 **ATTEST:**
28
29

30 _____
31 Chairperson



Summary of Receipts and Disbursements
Inception to date, as of 3/17/14

Beginning Cash Balance	\$ -
Receipts	
Member Contributions	\$ 365,375.00
DOE Grant Reimbursables	\$ 72,224.95
Disbursements	
Executive Director Services	\$ (218,792.33)
Legal Services	\$ (324.56)
Membership & Subscriptions	\$ (950.00)
Travel	\$ (15,042.50)
Disbursements	<u>\$ (235,109.39)</u>
Ending Cash Balance	<u><u>\$ 202,490.56</u></u>

DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW

REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission:

The mission of the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities is to:

1. Advocate for diverse and sustainable LANL missions,
2. Address the environmental, economic, and other opportunities of LANL, and
3. Serve as a focal point for communication, advocacy and education regarding LANL.

Goals:

In furtherance of this mission, the Regional Coalition adopted the following goals:

1. Engage LANL, DOE, state of New Mexico and others on site issues
2. Increase the communities' voice, including state and federal legislative advocacy
3. Discuss and proactively address issues, and strategize on how to meet regional needs
4. Identify and support economic opportunities to promote LANL activities off-site
5. Ensure site activities and cleanup protect human health and the environment

Governance & Approach:

The Regional Coalition will explore issues and identify solutions that are broadly representative of the regional communities' needs, interests and goals. The Board of Directors will seek to reach a broad consensus on policy matters, working collaboratively with DOE, Congress, the regulatory agencies, site contractors and other community members as decisions are formulated and policies are implemented. The Board will adhere to an approach of disclosure and transparency built on the free flow of information, and will ensure this approach is followed throughout the organization.

Strategic Plan Elements:

The Strategic Plan is divided into the following four sections:

1. Site Mission/Mission Diversification/Economic Development
2. Environmental Stewardship
3. Communications and Engagement
4. Business Operations

Site Mission/Mission Diversification/Economic Development

Overview:

LANL is the largest employer in Northwest New Mexico and a critical economic driver in the region. Sustaining and diversifying LANL's missions and protecting the environment through

design, planning and execution are central to the site's long-term viability and, in turn, essential to the long-term economic and social health of the regional communities.

Activities:

1. Promote new missions for LANL that are in the public interest
2. Advocate for long-term, stable funding
3. Promote diversification and new scientific endeavors at LANL with the intent to further economic employment and educational opportunities within the regional communities
4. Raise awareness of LANL's regional economic benefits and employment impact
5. Support business incubation, including business development on non-federal lands
6. Support workforce training and development
7. Build recognition of LANL's contributions to education in the region
8. Inform the region of the variety and sophistication of LANL research programs and importance to national security

Environmental Stewardship

Overview:

One of the key roles of the Regional Coalition is to understand and engage the various issues regarding the cleanup and long-term management of LANL, and to provide a forum to foster discussions among DOE, Congress, the regulatory agencies, site contractors, and community members.

Activities:

1. Work to ensure the cleanup and site conditions meet community values and future use goals (including existing and new missions)
2. Work with DOE, Congress, and other interested parties to ensure that budgets support a timely, safe and thorough cleanup
3. Engage on technical issues, as needed
4. Examine the relationship between future use goals and objectives, cleanup, and long-term stewardship needs and obligations, including the prevention of future contamination through design, planning and execution
5. Evaluate cleanup planning, implementation, and oversight for protection of workers and neighboring communities

Communications and Engagement

Overview:

A core goal of the Regional Coalition is reaching out to the community leaders and providing a mechanism to educate people about LANL. As part of this mission, it remains essential that the group develop and maintain close communications with DOE, Congress, the regulatory agencies, site contractors and other community members.

Activities:

1. Evaluate policy and legislation for impacts on regional communities

2. Develop long-term relationships among key individuals in the region, with LANL, and with DOE officials and Congress in both Washington, DC and New Mexico
3. Build awareness of LANL strategic initiatives and ensure that the Regional Coalition's work complements LANL's efforts
4. Meet with key program agencies, committees, committee members and staff that affect LANL funding
5. Coordinate with other organizations advocating for federal installations in the state and elsewhere
6. Provide feedback to LANL senior management on cleanup, funding and site mission
7. Participate and provide comments during formal public comment and public outreach initiatives to impact decisions on LANL activities

Business Operations

Overview:

Business operations refers to organizational management responsibilities – conducting the annual audit, hiring staff, submitting financial reports to DOE, adopting the strategic plan and annual budget, etc.

Activities:

1. Secure federal, state and local funding
2. Operate organization in compliance with applicable local, state and federal regulations
3. Prepare and adopt the annual strategic plan and the annual budget
4. File grant reports (as necessary)
5. Pay bills

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-01

BYLAWS OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES

PREAMBLE

The Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (the “Regional Coalition”) shall carry out its purposes as described in and pursuant to the Joint Powers Agreement establishing the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (the “JPA”) and amendments thereto.

ARTICLE I.

Offices

If the Regional Coalition has offices, the principal office of the Regional Coalition shall be located within the boundaries of any Party to the JPA and amendments thereto, as designated by the Board of Directors. The Regional Coalition may have other offices and places of business at such places within the State of New Mexico as shall be determined by the Board.

ARTICLE II.

Board of Directors

A. Number, Qualifications and Term of Office. The business and affairs of the Regional Coalition shall be managed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be constituted of one representative Director from each of the member Parties of the Coalition. All Directors must be an elected official, or tribal official. All Alternate Directors may be either an elected official or employee of that government. Annually, each government will appoint the Director and Alternate Director(s) and inform the Regional Coalition in writing. Each government may appoint up to two Alternate Directors.

B. Performance of Duties. A Director and Alternate Director shall perform his/her duties in good faith and in a manner he/she believes to be in the best interests of the Regional Coalition. An Alternate Director shall serve in the absence of the Director for which he/she is an alternate. However, at no time shall an Alternate Director serve as an officer of the Board of Directors.

C. Vacancies. Any Director or Alternate Director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the chair of the Board of Directors. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein; and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. In the case where the Director or Alternate Director is an elected

official, that office shall be deemed to be vacant upon the expiration of their term of office. A vacancy will also occur if a Director or Alternate Director dies during his or her term of office. In the event of a vacancy, the affected Party shall submit the name of a replacement at its earliest convenience.

D. Expenses. The Board of Directors shall adopt, by separate action, a resolution detailing the procedures for reimbursement of expenses related to Director and Alternate Director participation in Coalition activities.

E. Conflict of Interest. No Director or Alternate Director may enter into an employment relationship with the Regional Coalition (1) while serving on the Board or (2) for twelve months thereafter.

ARTICLE III. **Officers of the Board**

A. General. The Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors. Such elections shall take place at the first meeting of the Board held on or after July 1st of each year, and the terms shall commence immediately upon election. There shall be no limitation on the number of terms for which a person may serve as an officer. An officer shall hold office until he/she is no longer qualified to serve or his/her successor is chosen, until his/her death, or until he/she shall resign. All officers of the Regional Coalition shall be Directors of the Regional Coalition; should an Alternate Director represent the Director at a meeting, said Alternate Director shall not assume any office held by the Director for whom the alternate Director is substituting.

B. General Duties. All officers and agents of the Regional Coalition shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as may be provided in these Bylaws or as may be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

C. Vacancies. When a vacancy in one of the Board offices occurs it shall be filled by a resolution of the Board of Directors at the next meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present.

D. Chair of the Board. The Chair of the Board shall preside as chair at meetings of the Board of Directors. He/she shall, in addition, execute resolutions and documents, represent the Board and Regional Coalition at public functions and perform such other duties as the Board may prescribe.

E. Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall fulfill the responsibilities of the Chair when the Chair is unavailable to do so.

F. **Secretary/Treasurer.** The Secretary/Treasurer shall perform both the duties of a secretary and of a treasurer, as follows:

1. Shall keep or cause to be kept, the minutes of the meetings of the Board.
2. Shall have oversight of Regional Coalition funds and assets. He/she shall review accounts of receipts, disbursements and deposits of all Regional Coalition monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Regional Coalition and report to the Board of Directors upon request.
3. Shall provide or cause to be provided a detailed financial statement to the Board. The financial statement shall include all revenue, revenue sources, expenditures and balances, and include monthly and year-to-date figures. The presentation of such a financial statement shall be a recurring item on each of the Board's regular meeting agendas.

G. **Delegation of Duties.** Except for the Chair, whenever an officer is unable to perform the duties of his/her office for any reason, the Board may delegate the powers and duties of an officer to any other officers or to any qualified Director.

ARTICLE IV. **Regional Coalition Staff**

At its discretion, the Board may hire an Executive Director who shall serve at the pleasure of and report directly to the Board of Directors of the Regional Coalition, and who shall be responsible for implementing the Board's policies, and for the overall management of all activities of the Regional Coalition. All other staff shall be hired by the Executive Director and shall report to him/her.

ARTICLE V. **Meetings of the Board**

A. **Place of Meetings.** The regular or special meetings of the Board of Directors or any committee designated by the Board shall be held at the principal office of the Regional Coalition or at any other place that the Board of Directors designates.

B. **Regular Meetings.** The Board of Directors shall meet quarterly, or as otherwise determined by the Board of Directors and pursuant to the Open Meetings Resolution as adopted by the Board.

C. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Chair or a quorum of the Board of Directors and pursuant to the Open Meetings Resolution as adopted by the Board.

D. **Notice of Meetings.** The Board shall adopt a resolution annually detailing meeting notice procedures in compliance with the New Mexico's Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, § 10-15-

E. Voting.

1. Quorum. At meetings of the Board of Directors, a majority of the appointed Directors (or their alternate if a Director is not present) shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If a quorum is present, the Regional Coalition's goal is to reach consensus on matters under consideration. If a vote is needed, an affirmative vote a majority of the Directors present (or Alternate Directors) shall be required to be the act of the Board of Directors.

2. Consent Agenda. Within a meeting agenda, Regional Coalition staff may place on the consent agenda any one or more items which staff believes do not give rise to discussion by the Board, and which may be acted upon by singular action and vote of the Board. Any Director may pull from the consent agenda any one or more items which shall then be separately and individually discussed and voted on by the Board.

F. Conduct of Meetings. The Board may adopt such rules of procedure as it deems proper. To the extent any rules adopted by the Board do not specify how an item of business of the Board is to be conducted then Roberts' Rules of Order shall apply.

ARTICLE VI.
Open Records and Open Meetings

A. All accounts and records of the Regional Coalition and its committees shall be open to the public as provided for in the New Mexico Open Records Act and any other applicable laws, at all reasonable times under reasonable regulation, except where a specific determination is made by the Regional Coalition that there is a legitimate public purpose achieved by withholding a document concerning legal, personnel, or private proprietary information.

B. All meetings of the Board of Directors of the Regional Coalition and any of its committees are subject to New Mexico's Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1(1999), as the New Mexico legislature may amend from time to time.

C. Minutes or similar record shall be kept of all meetings of the Board of Directors of the Regional Coalition.

ARTICLE VII.

Committees

A. Regional Coalition Committees. The Regional Coalition is interested in working with the public and will seek the input of the local community and other interested parties. As necessary, and to the extent practicable, the Regional Coalition will seek the input of the local community and other interested parties by establishing *ad hoc* committees and task forces, and by holding public meetings, workshops, special meetings, or other forums of public involvement, from time to time as may be deemed appropriate by the Board. By resolution or motion of the Board, the Regional Coalition may establish such working committees from time to time as it deems appropriate. These committees shall be open to all persons interested in participating with the Regional Coalition. Each committee shall have a chair appointed by the Board of Directors. Committees may consider issues consistent with the Regional Coalition's purposes and make recommendations for actions to the Board of Directors. Any such recommendations, together with any minority reports, shall be made to the Board of Directors. The Board may consider and comment on committee recommendations and formulate its own recommendations for official action by the Board. Any minority report(s) from a committee shall be transmitted simultaneously with such recommendations. The Board of Directors may take such actions as it deems appropriate, notwithstanding recommendations or lack thereof or the fact of pending deliberations of committees and of the Regional Coalition.

B. Board Committees. The Board may have committees on any matters as the Board deems proper for the administration of the Regional Coalition. Such committees shall be comprised of Directors, and shall not meet nor exceed the number of Directors necessary to constitute a quorum of the Regional Coalition.

ARTICLE VIII.

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Regional Coalition shall be July 1 to June 30.

ARTICLE IX.

Amendments

A. General. The Board of Directors may amend, supplement or repeal these Bylaws or adopt new Bylaws, and all such changes shall affect and be binding upon the Regional Coalition. Any amendment, supplement or repeal of these Bylaws or adoption of new Bylaws shall require discussion at two meetings of the Board.

B. Vote Necessary. Amendment to, supplementation of or repeal of these Bylaws or adoption of new Bylaws shall require approval by a majority of the Directors of the Board at the second meeting at which the amendment, supplement, repeal or adoption is discussed.

**ARTICLE X.
Annual Report**

On an annual basis, the Regional Coalition shall prepare or cause to be prepared an annual report which shall generally address Regional Coalition's operations for the previous year; Regional Coalition's proposed plans for the upcoming year; a summary of Regional Coalition's financial status, including revenue projections and operating costs; and any changes or proposed changes in Regional Coalition's policies. Upon request, the Executive Director shall present an oral presentation of the annual report at a designated board or council meeting of the requesting Party.

**ARTICLE XI.
Miscellaneous**

A. Invalid Provision. The invalidity or non-enforceability of any particular provision of these Bylaws shall not affect the other provisions herein, and these Bylaws shall be construed in all respects as if such invalid or unenforceable provision was omitted.

B. Governing Law. These Bylaws shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico and the JPA, as amended from time to time. To the extent there are inconsistencies between the JPA and any amendments thereto and these Bylaws and any amendments thereto, the JPA and amendments thereto shall control.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of August, 2012.

**REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL
COMMUNITIES**



Coalition Chair

ATTEST:



Regional Coalition Executive Director

OTHER INFORMATION

KUTAK ROCK LLP
SUITE 1000
1101 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-4374
202-828-2400
FACSIMILE 202-828-2488
www.kutakrock.com

ATLANTA
CHICAGO
DENVER
FAYETTEVILLE
IRVINE
KANSAS CITY
LITTLE ROCK
LOS ANGELES
MINNEAPOLIS
OKLAHOMA CITY
OMAHA
PHILADELPHIA
RICHMOND
SCOTTSDALE
WICHITA

MEMORANDUM

TO: BRIAN BOSSHARDT

FROM: MR. KIRSHENBERG
MS. DOMAN

DATE: MARCH 12, 2014

RE: SUMMARY OF REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES
WASHINGTON, DC MEETINGS

The following is a general summary of the February 24 to February 26 Washington, DC meetings with representatives of the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (RCLC), the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, Department of Energy (DOE) officials, and congressional staff members (DC Meetings). This memo contains (1) a summary of the DC Meetings (2) a copy of the RCLC Federal Legislative Priorities (Attachment A) and (3) a schedule with meeting attendees and contact information (Attachment B).

Santa Fe Mayor David Coss, Los Alamos County Commissioner Steve Girrens, Los Alamos Deputy County Administrator Brian Bosshardt, Rio Arriba Assistant County Manager David Trujillo and RCLC Staff Jennifer Padilla and Darien Cabral traveled to Washington, DC for the series of meetings to present the RCLC's Federal Legislative Priorities including:

The RCLC discussed the federal cleanup budget for LANL, priorities for cleanup at LANL, diversification of missions at LANL, and small business/supply chain issues. The following is a summary of the main issues discussed in the DC Meetings:

Meetings with DOE and NNSA:

DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM)

The RCLC first met with Kristen Ellis from EM's Office of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs, and then with Frank Marcinowski, EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management. Due to the unfolding situation at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and the implications for cleanup at LANL, the RCLC spent a significant amount of time

discussing the situation and the impact it could potentially have on the 3706 TRU Waste Campaign. DOE emphasized that they will not know the impact of the WIPP situation until they better understand what happened in the mine, but that DOE is committed to completing their commitment to move the TRU waste from LANL by June, and that DOE is currently evaluating its options to ensure that it happens. DOE committed to keeping the RCLC informed of any developments in the situation.

The group also discussed the importance of cleanup funding for LANL. DOE expressed support for cleanup at LANL and the desire to work with the State and the community to develop the next cleanup priorities. We were once again reminded that LANL competes for scarce dollars with many other clean-up sites around the country. The RCLC highlighted the need for \$255 million in cleanup funding for FY 15.

DOE highlighted the success of the “campaign” approach to cleanup, where all stakeholders (State, community and DOE) supported a particular project. DOE suggested pushing for this type of approach for future cleanup priorities because it is easier to fund projects when all stakeholders are supportive. DOE suggested discussing FY 16 cleanup priorities with local site officials as soon as possible.

Finally, the RCLC discussed the value of funding the RCLC and the organization’s focus on cleanup issues. DOE indicated that it found the RCLC to be a valuable organization. They asked the RCLC to continue to educate the community about the cleanup activities going on at LANL.

Acting Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Acting NNSA Administrator

The RCLC met with the Acting Under Secretary for Nuclear Security/Acting Administrator for NNSA Bruce Held and Acting Director for Intergovernmental Affairs Christine Gibbs. In this meeting the RCLC discussed its priorities and covered several issues including: the main challenges for LANL, the situation at WIPP and its impact on the 3076 TRU Waste Campaign, NNSA being prepared for fire season, and the potential impact of recent supply chain policies at NNSA.

NNSA started the meeting by stating that DOE is committed to moving the TRU waste out of LANL by June. NNSA also discussed fire season and NNSA’s commitment to providing assistance should a fire occur this year or in the future.

NNSA also discussed the importance of nuclear safety. NNSA stated that they are committed to being out of the existing CMR facility by 2019. With regards to the budget, NNSA has recently experienced increases in its budget, it has also expanded its mission, and the increase in mission is greater than the increase in its budget. NNSA also stated that the US Government is consciously working for a time when nuclear weapons can be eliminated.

The RCLC also expressed concern about the subcontractor issue and NNSA policy being implemented by the Supply Chain Management Center (SCMC) in Kansas City that if left unchecked could impact regional jobs and economy. With regards to the supply chain issues,

NNSA stated that they were not aware of any specific impacts at LANL, but that he would have Ms. Gibbs follow up on the issue. The key goal for the NNSA supply chain is security.

Meetings with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation

Meetings were held with Senator Tom Udall, Senator Martin Heinrich, Congressman Lujan and their staff. In addition the RCLC met with Congresswoman Lujan-Grisham's Congressional Fellow from Sandia National Laboratory.

The RCLC expressed appreciation to the Congressional Delegation for helping to reverse the downward trend in cleanup funds and efforts to secure cleanup funding for the past few years. The RCLC emphasized the need to get cleanup funding of \$255 million for FY 15 and in the future to meet the baseline funding identified in the Framework Agreement of 2011.

The RCLC also discussed its concern about supply chain issues at NNSA with the Supply Chain Management Center (SCMC) in Kansas City. The new policies could impact regional jobs and the economy. Our Delegation expressed concern and asked us to keep them updated on this issue.

The Delegation also discussed the importance of moving TRU Waste from LANL by June. They asked the RCLC to push for the waste to be moved.

The RCLC also requested continued support for funding the RCLC.

Meetings with Armed Services and Appropriations Committee Staff

The RCLC met with staff from the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, and the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Committee.

In the meetings we were told that there is strong support for labs across the complex, but there is still concern that NNSA lacks the ability to manage large projects. There is also concern that there is no Senate confirmed leadership at NNSA.

Also in many of our meetings we discussed the sustainability of the labs. There was concern about sustaining scientific capabilities and retaining talent at the labs. The RCLC made a strong case for the need for Congress to continue to fund "pure science" at LANL, not only to promote technology commercialization, but also as a requirement to attract and retain top scientists for weapons programs. This becomes even more important as the US continues to emphasize non-proliferation and verification technology.

In all the meetings the RCLC emphasized the need to get stable funding of \$255 million starting in FY 15 to meet the baseline funding requirements identified in the Framework Agreement of 2011. The RCLC was told that in the current budget situation, there are many constraints on funding, and it is important to have a coherent cleanup plan in place. It will be important for DOE and The New Mexico Environment Department to complete site

characterizations and agree upon clean-up priorities to get this level of funding in the future. Staff members wanted to know specifically what the money would be used for. This highlighted the need to develop a cleanup plan for the site.

We were also told to keep an eye on the WIPP situation and where the funding would come from if the TRU waste from LANL needs to be moved somewhere else. Will that funding come from the LANL cleanup budget?

Other Meetings

The RCLC was addressed by Congressman Doc Hastings (R-WA) Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, and Congressman Mike Simpson (R-ID) Chair of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, along with DOE officials at the ECA meeting.

RCLC members also received a detailed briefing on the Manhattan Park Project. This is of particular concern to Congressman Hastings, and he would like to see the legislation passed before he leaves office.



2014 Regional Coalition Federal Legislative Priorities

As Adopted February 21, 2014

Engage Local and Pueblo Governments

- DOE and NMED must continue to engage local and pueblo government officials on all aspects of DOE cleanup. DOE and NMED should identify their cleanup priorities for LANL to the Regional Coalition and seek its input. Transparent communication between local governments, states, tribes and DOE is essential for achieving successful cleanup.

Environmental Cleanup

- The Regional Coalition supports a sustained, quality cleanup that protects human health, safety, and the environment, and complies with both the Framework Agreement and binding Compliance Order on Consent between NMED and DOE (“Cleanup Agreements”).
- LANL needs consistent, reliable and sufficient funding to meet Cleanup Agreement obligations. DOE should continue to request and Congress should appropriate \$255 million for cleanup activities at LANL, the amount needed to meet Cleanup Agreement requirements.

LANL

- The Administration should request sufficient funding for LANL to maintain strong scientific capabilities and support the diversification of missions. The Regional Coalition supports a reverse in the downward trend in funding for LANL.

Other

- Continued, consistent funding for the Regional Coalition to enable local governments and tribes to participate in environmental cleanup decision-making and support the DOE mission.

KUTAK ROCK LLP

- Continued, consistent funding for the Regional Coalition to enable local governments and tribes to participate in environmental cleanup decision-making and support the DOE mission.

**REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES
WASHINGTON, DC
MEETING SCHEDULE
February 23 – February 26, 2014**

Scheduled to attend:

- Mayor David Coss, City of Santa Fe
- Councilor Steve Girrens, Los Alamos County
- Darien Cabral, Regional Coalition of LANL Communities
- Jennifer Padilla, Regional Coalition of LANL Communities
- David Trujillo, Assistant County Manager, Rio Arriba County
- Brian Bosshardt, Los Alamos Deputy County Administrator

WHO	WHEN	WHERE
Sunday, February 23, 2014		
Dinner to Discuss Meetings	6:30 pm	TBD
Monday, February 24, 2014		
Breakfast Briefing	8:15 am – 9:45 am	Liaison Hotel Dining Room
House Armed Services Committee Staff Leonor Tomero, Minority Staff	10:00 am – 10:30 am	2340 library Rayburn House Office Building Phone: (202) 225-4151
Senate Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee (Majority Staff) Jonathan Epstein—Lead Counsel	12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	228 Russell Senate Office Building Phone: (202) 224-3871
Lunch	1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	TBD
House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development Lorraine Heckenberg , Majority Staff Taunja Berquam , Minority Staff	2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	2362 B Rayburn House Office Building (202) 225-3421

WHO	WHEN	WHERE
Senator Martin Heinrich Dan Alpert	4:15 pm – 5:00 pm	702 Hart Senate Office Building (Contact: Catherine Melshimer 202-224-5521)
Senator Tom Udall Jonathan Black Matthew Padilla	5:00 pm – 5:45 pm	110 Hart Senate Office Building (Contact: Donda Morgan 202- 224-6621)
Dinner to Discuss Meetings	TBD	TBD
Tuesday, February 25, 2014		
Kristen Ellis , Office of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs	9:15 am – 10:00 am	**Meet in Forrestal Lobby at 9:00 am** 1000 Independence Ave SW Forrestal Building (Contact Kristen Ellis 202-586- 5810)
Frank Marcinowski , Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, DOE-EM	10:00 am – 11:00 am	1000 Independence Ave SW Forrestal Building (Contact Kristen Ellis 202-586- 5810)
Bruce Held , NNSA Acting Administrator	11:00 am – 11:30 am	1000 Independence Ave SW Forrestal Building (Contact Christine Gibbs 202- 586-9128)
Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham's Office (New Mexico 1st District) Darryl Drayer , Congressional Fellow	12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	214 Cannon House Office Building Phone: 202-225-6316
Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee (Majority Staff) Doug Clapp Chris Hansen	1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	184 Dirksen Senate Office Building Phone: 202-224-8119
Lunch	1:45 pm – 2:30 pm	TBD
Representative Ben Luján (New Mexico 3 rd District)	5:30 pm – 6:15 pm	2446 Rayburn House Office Building (4th floor) (Contact: Chris Garcia 202-

WHO	WHEN	WHERE
		225-6190)
Wednesday, February 26, 2014		
Senate Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests Subcommittee David Brooks, Staff Member	2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
House Natural Resources Committee Todd Young, Chief of Staff	4:00 pm – 4:45 pm	1324 Longworth House Office Building
Meeting Request Sent		
Representative Steve Pearce (New Mexico 2nd District)		2432 Rayburn House Office Building (Contact: 202-225-2365)

SUMMARY NOTES FROM WASHINGTON DC TRIP

Mayor Coss, Commissioner Girrens and David Trujillo, along with Brian Bosshardt, Jennifer Padilla and Darien Cabral made the rounds on Capitol Hill to address issues of concern to the Regional Coalition. The first day we met with staff from the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, in addition to Senators Heinrich and Udall. Over the next two days we met with Representative Lujan as well as a staff person from Representative Grisham's Office. We also met with staff from DOE, Acting NNSA Administrator - Bruce Held, the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Committee, as well as the Senate Public Lands Subcommittee and the House Natural Resources Committee. Mayor Coss and Commissioner Girrens left before the ECA event, but we were joined by Commissioners Berting and Mayfield for the ECA Peer Review and Board Meeting. This was all coordinated for us by ECA. We will put a more detailed report together, but here are highlights of some of what was discussed.

Mayor Coss did an excellent job of articulating the urgency of stable funding for environmental management priorities at LANL. Appreciation was expressed to our Congressional Delegation for helping to reverse the downward trend in clean-up funds, and the need emphasized to get minimum annual stable funding of \$255 million starting in FY '15 just to meet the baseline funding identified in the Framework Agreement of 2011 which was agreed to but never achieved.

Commissioner Girrens made a strong case for the need for Congress to continue to fund "pure science" at LANL, not only to promote technology commercialization, but also as a requirement to attract and retain top scientists for weapons programs. This becomes even more important as the US continues to emphasize non-proliferation and verification technology. The Lab Directed Research and Development Program in particular did not achieve its hoped for level of funding. Bruce Held, an important administrator within the Nuclear Security Administration, mentioned that the US Government is consciously working for a time when nuclear weapons can be eliminated. This is a message that doesn't seem to get out.

The vital work that goes on at LANL is recognized by Congress, and there is bi-partisan support for clean-up funding. However, LANL competes for scarce dollars with many other clean-up sites around the country. The significance of the Regional Coalition as elected officials speaking with one voice bringing regional concerns to Washington was emphasized by agency staff and Congressional people across the board. The Regional Coalition has a major responsibility and role to play.

We were addressed by Congressman Doc Hastings of Washington State along with agency administrators at the ECA meeting. Currently the Hanford site gets the lion's share of clean-up dollars nationwide. Representative Hastings has been called the "Pete Domenici" of Washington State. Representative Hastings has announced his retirement from Congress. It's possible that could create some strategic opening for New Mexico.

Our other major message concerned the subcontractor issue and NNSA policy being implemented by the Supply Chain Management Center (SCMC) in Kansas City that if left unchecked will seriously impact regional jobs and economy. We have the strongest allies possible with Senator Heinrich and Representative Lujan. They are both willing to “go to bat” on this issue. The Regional Coalition can play an important role in working with our partner organizations, including the Major Subcontractors Consortium and RDC as well LANS to formulate strategy to deal with this quickly. Hanford Communities will also be an important partner with us on this issue as they are also starting to feel the economic effects from SCMC policy and are very concerned. This issue was reinforced by separate meetings that were held with the Subcontractors’ Consortium and RDC and our Congressional Delegation as well as with follow-up meetings by Commissioners Mayfield and Girrens.

We received a detailed briefing on the Manhattan Park Project. This is of particular concern to Congressman Hastings, and he would like to see it funded before he leaves office. The Park Project briefings impressed upon us the extreme dysfunctional dynamics that have been playing out in Congress recently that affects a lot more than the Manhattan Park Project. There is some sentiment that even though it remains exceedingly difficult to reach meaningful agreements, especially around appropriations, Congress’ worst days may be behind it.

All of our conversations were overshadowed by the events at WIPP. There is grave concern as to how it will impact the 3706 campaign at LANL, clean-up projects at other sites and the future of clean-up efforts nationwide. We heard up-to-the-minute reports from both DOE and the ECA Delegation from Carlsbad. Minimizing the damage from this event will require a major effort.

Many more topics, issues and strategies were discussed during a very busy week. This report is meant to give you a timely briefing/summary of a few of the major issues and topics. More strategies, directions and initiatives stemming from our week in Washington will play out as we move forward. There is no question that the Regional Coalition has its work cut out.

LOCAL RESOLUTIONS



P.O. Box 1099
San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico 87566
Phone (505) 852-4400
Fax (505) 852-4820

**OHKAY OWINGEH
TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION
No. 2014 - 06**

**PROVIDE FOR REGIONAL COLLABORATION IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING
AND
INCREASING LOCAL FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS' PROCUREMENTS THROUGH
LOCAL BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS, Ohkay Owingeh (formerly San Juan Pueblo) is a sovereign Indian nation, recognized as such by the United States of America, and in the exercise of its inherent tribal sovereignty is organized in accordance with Pueblo custom and tradition; and

WHEREAS, the sovereign authority of the Pueblo is vested in its Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, effective economic and community development on the behalf of our Tribal members requires a strategic collaborative effort on a regional basis by all essential government subdivisions, vital institutions and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is a major economic driver of the cities, counties and Tribes throughout northern New Mexico, directly benefiting the economy of our communities; and

WHEREAS, many local businesses benefit from contracts with Los Alamos National Laboratory and its major subcontractors, positively impacting our local economies, increasing our tax base and directly employing thousands of people in communities throughout northern New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Ohkay Owingeh in recognition of the economic impact of Los Alamos National Laboratory ("LANL") joined the Regional Coalition of communities in support of LANL in 2012 and is committed to the furtherance of mission at LANL; and

WHEREAS, LANL, together with local governments and Tribes, has consciously pursued a policy of attempting to maximize efficient local purchasing and the increased utilization of local contractors in order to foster regional economic development for many decades; and

WHEREAS, the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Major Subcontractors' Consortium is an organization made up of all LANL subcontractors with contracts of \$5 million or more; and

WHEREAS, Ohkay Owingeh owned Tsay Construction and Services, LLC is a member of the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Major Subcontractors Consortium

WHEREAS, the membership of the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Major Subcontractors' Consortium (MSC) generate hundreds of millions of dollars in annual revenues, further augments our tax base and employs thousands of northern New Mexico residents.

WHEREAS, membership in Los Alamos National Laboratory's Major Subcontractors' Consortium requires each company to maintain local facilities and implement a community development plans that supports community, education and economic development in northern New Mexico in addition to maintaining local facilities, personnel and warehousing; and

WHEREAS, over the past four years the Major Subcontractors' Consortium membership has directly contributed over \$13 million in money and services to northern New Mexico communities and nonprofit organizations, directly benefiting schools by providing equipment and resources for students in need, providing computers and training to local youth organizations, rebuilding acequias for local farmers, providing heavy earthmoving equipment to flood ravaged pueblos, amongst many other community service activities; and

WHEREAS, the Major Subcontractors' Consortium members contribute funds to and administer a MSC grant pool that has provided over \$400,000 to dozens of economic development projects with local nonprofits and local governments, including \$80,000 awarded in 2013 in grants to organizations throughout northern New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) which oversees LANL and other National Laboratories has implemented a policy directing LANL and other NNSA facilities to utilize the out-of-state Supply Chain Management Center (SCMC) for commodity purchases under unequal and non-competitive terms, thereby bypassing a normal competitive RFP process and driving LANL purchases away from regional contractors towards out-of-state firms; and

WHEREAS, the National Nuclear Security Administration has established specific performance targets for commodities purchases through the SCMC system for LANL and each other NNSA sites; and

WHEREAS, the National Nuclear Security Administration has publicly confirmed that the utilization of the SCMC is scheduled to expand, thereby directing even more funds away from the northern New Mexico subcontractors; and

WHEREAS, the out-of-state firms contracted through the Supply Chain Management Center do not employ northern New Mexico residents, nor do they pay gross receipts taxes to local

communities nor implement community development plans that benefit the economy of northern New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the SCMC system institutes an un-level playing field by allowing out-of-state suppliers to circumvent the additional requirements placed on local contractors to include maintaining local facilities, participation and funding of a Community Development Plan, payment of local gross receipts taxes; and

WHEREAS, increased use of the Supply Chain Management Center at LANL is likely to result in a loss of substantial jobs in northern New Mexico, reduced investment in the MSC members community development plan, and an overall loss to the regional economy and a direct impact to the economy of the communities of northern New Mexico; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ohkay Owingeh Tribe fully supports the LANL Major Subcontractors' Consortium's efforts to study the possible impact and mitigate the effects of the NNSA's efforts to utilize the Supply Chain Management Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ohkay Owingeh Tribal council requests that all members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation collaborate with the impacted regional governments, vital institutions and the private sector including the Major Subcontractors' Consortium to work with the NNSA to mitigate or eliminate the negative impact of requiring LANL to utilize the SCMC procurement system, and that copies of this resolution be transmitted to all members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was considered and adopted by the Ohkay Owingeh Tribal Council at a duly called meeting held on the 5TH day of March, 2014 at which a quorum was established by a vote of 12 in favor and 0 opposed 2 absent.



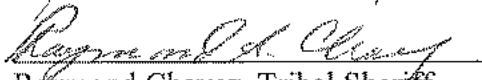
Marcelino Aguino, Governor



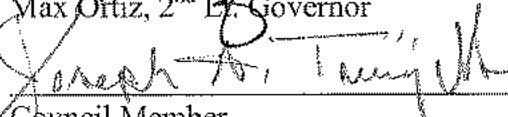
Larry Phillips, Sr., 1st Lt. Governor



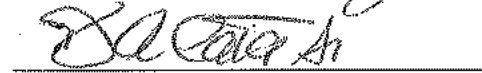
Max Ortiz, 2nd Lt. Governor



Raymond Chavez, Tribal Sheriff



Council Member



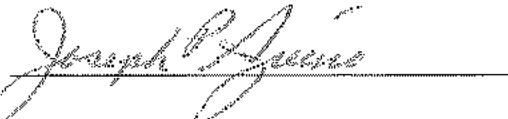
Council Member



Council Member



Council Member



Council Member



Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

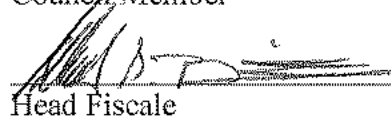
Council Member

Council Member

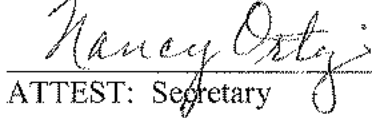


Head War Chief

Council Member



Head Fiscale



ATTEST: Secretary

PRESS INFORMATION

Los Alamos Monitor

3/11/14

Coalition lobbies for cleanup funding



Group is seeking an additional \$30 million

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 1:18 pm

Members of the Regional Coalition of LANL (Los Alamos National Laboratory) Communities (Regional Coalition) traveled to Washington, D.C during the week of Feb. 24 to advocate for \$255 million in support of environmental remediation at LANL, and to discuss the Federal Legislative Priorities of the Coalition.

The \$255 million represents an increase in \$30 million from the previous fiscal year, and is the minimum amount needed to meet the cleanup agreement requirements negotiated between the N.M. Environment Department and the U.S. Department of Energy.

The members of the coalition who traveled to D.C. for meetings include: former Santa Fe Mayor David Coss, Los Alamos County Commissioner Steve Girrens, Rio Arriba Deputy County Manager David Trujillo, coalition executive director Darien Cabral, and Jennifer Padilla of the coalition's executive director team.

The coalition members met with the following:

- Senator Martin Heinrich
- Senator Tom Udall
- Representative Ben Ray Lujan
- Bruce Held, the Acting Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration
- Plus other Department of Energy and Nuclear Security Administration staff and key members of pertinent Congressional Committees

INFORMATION ON ISSUES

Search



Listen to music



Archives Place Classified Ad Subscribe Advertising Rates

Search

GO

Welcome back, dcaztlan Logout | My Settings

LOCAL NEWS

HOME NEWS SPORTS OPINION PASATIEMPO MAGAZINES LIFE MULTIMEDIA CONTACT US Explore Subscribe Classifieds

New budget for LANL does not include money for plutonium facility

Print Font Size:

Recommend { 0

Tweet { 1

g+1 { 0

2

Posted: Tuesday, March 4, 2014 11:29 pm | Updated: 11:35 pm, Tue Mar 4, 2014.

By Staci Matlock

The New Mexican | 0 comments

Nuclear security remains top dog in the Department of Energy's \$27.9 billion budget request for 2015 released Tuesday, but what that means for Los Alamos National Laboratory's bottom line remains uncertain until details are released in a few days.

The Department of Energy budget covers renewable and fossil fuel energy programs, electric grid security, energy innovation, and protecting and maintaining the nation's nuclear arsenal.



Onstage – Support group: "Water by the Spoonful"

Art of Space — Saving seats: Photographer Matt Lambros



Calendar Your guide to everything Santa Fe M T W TH F S SU

Of the total department budget request, \$11.9 billion is for the National Nuclear Security Administration's programs and administration, which cover the lion's share of Los Alamos National Laboratory funding each year. The NNSA is looking at ways to be more efficient, given problems with runaway costs on some of its nuclear weapons and stockpile projects, officials said during a news conference Tuesday.

All told, New Mexico received more than \$4.6 billion in Department of Energy funding in fiscal year 2014, most of it for LANL and Sandia National Laboratories.

The [complete](#) breakdown of Department of Energy funding for 2015 by state, facility and program was not released Tuesday.

The bulk of the NNSA request — \$8.3 billion — is for the weapons program, an increase over last year. An additional half-billion dollars are available for weapons activities through the Opportunities, Growth and Security Initiative, if it's approved by Congress.

Meanwhile, the administration asked for a 20 percent reduction in funding for nuclear nonproliferation, at \$1.6 billion. A lot of the decrease is to temporarily suspend construction of a facility in Savannah, Ga., to process plutonium pits from old nuclear warheads into fuel for nuclear power plants. The facility is part of a plan to break down and process 34 metric tons of plutonium materials from Russia and the U.S.

Just one portion of the project has run \$3 billion over budget, and the full life-cycle cost was projected at \$30 billion.

Los Alamos National Laboratory was helping to break down the plutonium pits and converting them to plutonium oxide as feedstock for the Savannah plant. The lab was planning to process at least 10 metric tons by 2018, but that will be delayed. NNSA officials said they'll spend at least the next year reviewing the best way to process the plutonium.

Los Alamos National Laboratory also is the only site processing plutonium into

new pits for nuclear warheads. The lab and NNSA have been trying for years to build a new facility for testing and making the pits. The lab has one aging plutonium facility that needs to be closed by 2019.

The administration is looking at revamping the pit production program at the lab in three phases. The first phase in 2015 doesn't involve any new facility money, according to Don L. Cook, NNSA deputy administrator for defense programs. Any request for new funding to retool the existing Plutonium Facility 4 at the lab and potentially build small production modules would occur in 2016 in the third phase, he said.

Greg Mello of the watchdog Los Alamos Study Group said the Department of Energy budget and its impact on the lab is a reminder. "In New Mexico, it is a big mistake to depend on Cold War weapons programs as a prop for our economy, let alone as a source of growth," he said in a statement. "There just isn't going to be significant growth in those programs, ever, and eventually there will be decline in real terms."


The Department of Energy budget request reduces funding for environmental management to clean up legacy radioactive waste at LANL by \$171 million. The department still is asking for more than \$224 million to remediate or remove the waste, left over from the lab's founding era during the Manhattan Project and the Cold War.

The Energy Department has proposed reducing the environmental management budget by \$695,000 for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, in the news lately for evacuating employees and shutting down recently after the facility's first radioactive leak was detected.

The environmental management budget totals more than \$5.5 billion to clean up 50 years worth of highly radioactive waste at more than 20 sites in the U.S. It is the largest such program in the world, according to the Department of Energy.

Other Department of Energy budget highlights:

Follow




Daniel Chacon
@danieljchacon

9h

"But it's looking pretty darn good," he told the crowd, which erupted in cheers and applause.
[#santafevote](#)

Retweeted by Santa Fe New Mexican

Expand ▾




Daniel Chacon
@danieljchacon

9h

"For as excited as we all are, all the totals have not come in yet," said [@javiermgonzales](#).
[#santafevote](#)

Retweeted by Santa Fe New Mexican

Expand ▾




patrick malone
@pmalonenm

9h

Early voting seals wins for Maestas in District 2 and incumbent Dominguez in District 3.
[#santafevote](#)

Retweeted by Santa Fe New Mexican

Expand ▾




Daniel Chacon
@danieljchacon

9h

[@pattiforsantafe](#) is conceding. [#santafevote](#)
[#santafemayor](#)

Retweeted by Santa Fe New Mexican

Expand ▾



patrick malone

9h

Follow The Santa Fe New Mexican

Search



Listen to music



Archives Place Classified Ad Subscribe Advertising Rates

Search

GO

Welcome back, dcaztlan Logout | My Settings

LOCAL NEWS

HOME NEWS SPORTS OPINION PASATIEMPO MAGAZINES LIFE MULTIMEDIA CONTACT US Explore Subscribe Classifieds

Analysis offers options for plutonium pit production

Print Font Size:

Recommend 1 Tweet 1 g+1 1

Posted: Sunday, March 2, 2014 9:15 pm | Updated: 12:31 am, Mon Mar 3, 2014.

By Staci Matlock
The New Mexican | 2 comments

Los Alamos National Laboratory is the only place making plutonium pits for nuclear warheads, and the lab has spent years and millions of taxpayer dollars trying to figure out a way to produce more for the U.S. Department of Defense.

A new analysis by the Congressional Research Service says there are several cheaper options available than building new billion-dollar underground plutonium production facilities.

“Several options have the potential to produce 80 pits per year and permit other plutonium activities at relatively modest cost, in a relatively short time, with no new buildings and with minimal environmental impact,” said the report by



Clothes reading: Jonathan Faiers dissects fashion in film

Restaurant Review – The brew that is true: "Second Street Brewery"



Jonathan E. Medalia, specialist in nuclear weapons policy for the Congressional Research Service.

One option is to modify and use the lab's existing facilities. Another, likely to make lab officials unhappy, is to move pit production to another lab, such as Lawrence Livermore in Livermore, Calif., or Savannah River, near Aiken, S.C. A third possibility is to build smaller concrete modules for pit production.

LANL referred all questions to the National Nuclear Security Administration, an agency of the Department of Energy, which maintains the nation's nuclear arsenal. Agency staff were unavailable to immediately respond to questions.

The Los Alamos lab has been the only site for the production of weapons-grade plutonium since the Rocky Flats Plant in Colorado closed in 1989. Pit production there reached 1,000 pits per year. About 10 pits are produced a year now, but the Department of Defense says it needs between 50 and 80 pits a

year by 2030 to keep current nuclear weapons in good working order, according to the report. The Department of Energy maintains the nuclear weapons.

Greg Mello of the watchdog Los Alamos Study Group said there have been eight different projects proposed since 1988 to increase the lab's plutonium pit



A plutonium chemist at Los Alamos National Laboratory shows a 'puck' of plutonium refined from a nuclear weapon pit at Technical Area-55 in November 1995. New Mexican file photo



YOUR VOTE (See Related Story)

Should lawmakers have been paid for mileage costs and per diem even though they did not attend the legislative session, citing health reasons?

Total Votes: 596

- Yes
- No

Vote

View Results

>> See results of previous polls

production.

“Every attempt has been characterized by the failure to prove need, failure to examine prudent alternatives and basically a triumph of ideology, contractor self-interest and pork barrel politics over sound policy decisions,” Mello said. “That’s why they have all failed.”

The federal Nuclear Posture Review that lays out the nation’s goals for its nuclear arsenal says the U.S. won’t develop new nuclear warheads, but will simply extend the life of the existing arsenal. The Department of Defense and the Department of Energy say new plutonium pits will be needed to maintain the arsenal as some components degrade or are modified.

Plutonium pits form the core of a warhead. Surrounded by other explosives, they are the trigger for blowing up a thermonuclear weapon.

But plutonium is a highly radioactive metal and tough to work with, requiring highly specialized buildings and security. Plutonium is manufactured from uranium fuel rods into different isotopes.


Medalia called plutonium “quirky.” Former Los Alamos lab director Siegfried Hecker called it “an element at odds with itself le of becoming “as brittle as glass” or flexible like aluminum. Instead of shrinking when it becomes solid, it expands.

Given it’s odd nature, plutonium has to be mixed with other materials to make it more stable inside warheads.

Handling plutonium and mixing the materials is inherently dangerous. If inhaled, as more than a dozen workers did during a recent leak at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project near Carlsbad, radiation from the particles can cause lung cancer.

In addition, buildings with plutonium need high security to prevent terrorists from attempting to steal the metal and use it in improvised nuclear weapons, according to the Congressional Research Service report.


Tweets
Follow



Santa Fe New Mexican
@thenewmexican

6m

New analysis offers several alternatives for plutonium pit production at #LANL rather than building new facilities ow.ly/ub81n




Santa Fe New Mexican
@thenewmexican

20h

Restoredhotelscouldrevivetownhttp://ow.ly/u9vLL


Expand



Santa Fe New Mexican
@thenewmexican

20h

GibSingletondieshttp://ow.ly/u9vG0




Santa Fe New Mexican
@thenewmexican

20h

mayoralhopefulsconnectwithvotershttp://ow.ly/u9vAc

Expand



Daniel Chacon
@danieljchacon

28 Feb

Former city councilors blast @pattiforsantafe at campaign event for @javiermgonzales. [#santafevote](http://bit.ly/1fZa0OP)

Retweeted by Santa Fe New Mexican

Expand

Tweet to @thenewmexican

Follow The Santa Fe New Mexican

Plutonium decays, but very slowly. Recent studies put the projected life of a pit at 100 years to 150 years, according to the report. In 2013, Penrose Albright, then director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory testified before Congress that existing pits are good for “many decades to come.”

The slow decay rate is one reason Mello doesn't think the Department of Defense needs the number of pits its projecting.

Some plutonium work is carried out in the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building, which opened in 1952. Medalia said in a mid-February presentation that a congressional commission described the facility as “genuinely decrepit” and “structurally unsound.” In particular, it isn't built to withstand earthquakes, a risk in Los Alamos, which is built on seismic faults. A seismic expert Medalia talked to for the report says that in any given decade there's a 1-in-36 chance of the building collapsing from an earthquake.

The agency wants to move all plutonium research and operations out of the building by 2019.

Pit production at Los Alamos also has taken place at another facility called PF-4, but there are concerns that building won't withstand an earthquake. The facility was shut down last year due to those concerns and worries about weaknesses in its operations, but it has since partially reopened, according to the lab.

During budget hearings last year, the Senate Armed Services Committee criticized the National Nuclear Security Administration for spending a decade and more than \$350 million on designing a facility to replace the aging Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building, then putting the project on hold. Funding for another nuclear facility project was canceled.

Contact Staci Matlock at 986-3055 or smatlock@sfnwmexican.com. Follow her on Twitter @stacimatlock.

More about **Nuclear Technology**

MOST READ MOST COMMENTED

1. Teens rescue dog riddled with old gunshot wounds, severed paw
2. City aims to seize Solano's BMW after daughter's DWI arrest
3. Reports: Groups spend \$48K supporting Gonzales
4. Today's New Mexican, Feb. 27, 2014
5. Council drops paper fee from bag ban that begins today
6. Ten Thousand Waves' new restaurant, Izanami, already turning heads
7. Video: Former councilors blast Bushee at campaign event
8. On tap: Craft beers from around state at downtown's new Draft Station
9. Children's advocate questions Obama's praise of Gov. Martinez
10. Entrepreneur looks to revamp historic Las Vegas, N.M., hotels, usher in revival

ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

SUITE 1000
1101 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-4374
(202) 828-2400
FACSIMILE (202) 828-2488

www.energyca.org

March 7, 2014

Secretary Ernest Moniz
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz,

In light of recent events at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico, the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) urges the US Department of Energy (DOE) to expedite the investigation of the radiation leak to ensure worker and community safety and protection. ECA recognizes the information already provided by DOE and the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center, and efforts to keep the Carlsbad community and State of New Mexico informed. We appreciate the Department's rapid establishment of an Accident Investigation Board, and the creation of a WIPP recovery website with information on recovery efforts, sampling results and radiation. We ask DOE to continue to ensure basic information on the incident, radiation and exposure levels is readily available along with resources for answering any questions from the local community.

As local governments adjacent to and impacted by DOE activities, our most important role is to protect the health, safety, environment, quality of life, as well as economic viability of our communities. WIPP plays a critical role in the cleanup of our communities and the legacy of weapons production and research. Since it became operational in 1999, WIPP has set the standard for safe, permanent disposal of long-lived transuranic (TRU) radioactive defense wastes – receiving without incident 11,872 shipments from across the country, safely disposing of 90,807 cubic meters of waste, and securely placing 170,946 containers in the underground. The WIPP facility has assisted in the remediation of 22 DOE sites of legacy TRU waste since operations began. It is the only facility of its kind.

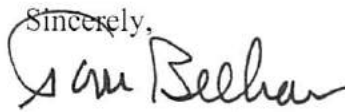
As the investigation into the incident at WIPP on February 14, 2014, continues, ECA asks that DOE analyze what occurred, why it occurred, and what is necessary to safely re-enter the mine, decontaminate it and restart operations as quickly as possible without risk to worker or public safety. DOE should also commit to identifying what the impacts will be if WIPP remains shutdown for the long-term, how the impacts can be mitigated, and what the timeline is for doing so.

To that end, ECA requests that DOE continue to pursue the following actions:

- **Host town hall meetings and use multiple formal channels to ensure all impacted local governments and states are regularly informed of current and potential activities.**
- **Emphasize that the safety response systems in place at WIPP worked as they were designed to contain the release.**
- **Support the US Environmental Protection Agency to conduct independent tests and studies that can assist and verify monitoring assets already in the area. There should be transparency, and early and full disclosure of any findings to all impacted parties.**
- **Coordinate with the site contractor (Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC) to analyze exposure to workers on site and address potential health concerns. Status reports regarding health, radiation and exposure should also be provided to the public so there is a clear understanding of what is actually occurring at the site.**
- **Ensure that other DOE sites understand the impact of the incident on facility operation and DOE's Environmental Management program.**
- **Work with the New Mexico Environment Department to explore the possibility of extended temporary storage above ground at WIPP beyond changes recently implemented.**
- **Examine other alternatives for TRU waste management in light of existing cleanup commitments.**

Public health and environmental protection are paramount to the success of DOE's cleanup program and trust between the local and federal governments. The safe operation of all DOE facilities is one of ECA's top priorities, one we know we share with you and your colleagues at the Department. We welcome the opportunity to provide any information or assistance we can to help restart normal, safe operations at WIPP and continue cleanup of DOE's nuclear weapon complex.

Please contact Seth Kirshenber at (202) 828-2317 with any questions.

Sincerely,

 Mayor Tom Beehan
 City of Oak Ridge
 ECA Chair

cc: Mayor Dale Janway, Mayor, City of Carlsbad, NM
Chairman Jack Volpato, Eddy County Commission
ECA Board Members
Seth Kirshenberg, ECA Executive Director
David Klaus, Deputy Undersecretary for Management and Performance, US DOE
David Huizenga, Senior Advisor, Office of Environmental Management, US DOE
Frank Marcinowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, Office of
Environmental Management, US DOE

The President has requested \$224.617 million for LANL cleanup in FY 2015

(Discretionary dollars in thousands)

	FY 2013 Current	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	FY 2015 vs. FY 2014	
				\$	%
Environmental Management by Site					
Carlsbad/Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)	202,293	221,170	220,475	-695	-0.3%
Idaho National Laboratory	360,629	391,993	372,103	-19,890	-5.1%
Oak Ridge	402,680	429,541	384,975	-44,566	-10.4%
Paducah	149,533	324,524	269,773	-54,751	-16.9%
Portsmouth	217,437	199,465	221,804	+22,339	+11.2%
Richland/Hanford	943,327	1,012,620	914,301	-98,319	-9.7%
River Protection	1,097,441	1,210,216	1,235,000	+24,784	+2.0%
Savannah River	1,214,284	1,255,430	1,282,302	+26,872	+2.1%
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	1,998	1,476	1,366	-110	-7.5%
Los Alamos National Laboratory	192,033	224,789	224,617	-172	-0.1%
Nevada	60,795	61,897	64,851	+2,954	+4.8%
Sandia National Laboratories	2,588	2,814	2,801	-13	-0.5%
Separation Process Research Unit (SPRU)	21,795	23,700	0	-23,700	-100.0%
West Valley Demonstration Project	61,077	66,015	60,457	-5,558	-8.4%
Brookhaven National Laboratory	7,471	0	0	0	N/A
Energy Technology Engineering Center	8,868	9,404	8,959	-445	-4.7%
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	9,478	17,786	0	-17,786	-100.0%
Moab	31,480	38,000	35,837	-2,163	-5.7%
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory	3,793	0	0	0	N/A
Other Sites	4,943	5,702	13,297	+7,595	+133.2%
Headquarters Operations	28,029	35,979	27,986	-7,993	-22.2%
Program Direction	295,770	300,000	280,784	-19,216	-6.4%
Federal Contribution to Uranium Enrichment D&D Fund	0	0	463,000	+463,000	N/A
Subtotal, Environmental Management by Site	5,317,742	5,832,521	6,084,688	+252,167	+4.3%
<i>Adjustments</i>					

DOE Funding-Select Programs

	FY 2013 Current	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Environmental Management	\$5.299B	\$5.83B	\$5.622B
NNSA	\$10.576B	\$11.207B	\$11.658B
Weapons Activities	\$6.967B	\$7.781B	\$8.315B
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	\$2.237B	\$1.954B	\$1.555B
Nuclear Energy	\$798.28M	\$888.38M	\$863.39M
SMR Licensing Technical Support	\$62.67M	\$110M	\$97M
Office of Legacy Management	\$155.67M	\$176.98M	\$171.98M

Environmental Management Funding-Select Sites

	FY 2013 Current	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Carlsbad/WIPP	\$202.29M	\$221.17M	\$220.48M
Oak Ridge	\$402.68M	\$429.54M	\$384.98M
Paducah	\$149.53M	\$324.52M	\$269.77M
Richland/Hanford	\$943.33M	\$1.013B	\$914.3M
River Protection	\$1.097B	\$1.21B	\$1.235B
Savannah River	\$1.214B	\$1.255B	\$1.282B
LANL	\$192.03M	\$224.79M	\$224.62M