



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board

Waste Management (WM) Committee

Work Plan FY'2008

WM Committee Mission Statement:

The Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) Waste Management Committee reviews policies, practices and procedures, existing and proposed, so as to provide recommendations, advice, suggestions and opinions to the US Department of Energy (DOE), New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and others regarding the waste management operations of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The committee also facilitates community awareness and access to LANL waste management practices and procedures.

Issues Addressed by WM Committee in 2006/2007:

1. Transuranic (TRU) Waste Characterization.
 - Assessed the level of public concern regarding TRU waste storage and transportation.
 - Monitored progress of the transfer of TRU waste to WIPP.
 - Monitored the LANL assessment process and handling procedures for TRU waste.
2. Waste Management Regulatory Issues.
 - Monitored and evaluated RCRA permit modifications and changes in regulations affecting management and handling of TRU, liquid, and low-level waste.
 - Assessed regulatory concerns regarding liquid waste management.
3. Waste Management Committee Communication
 - Monitored implementation of the LANL Public Involvement Plan.
 - Monitored LANL's use of Area G for ongoing waste disposal, and plans for closure of some sites in Area G.
4. Issued Recommendations to the Department of Energy:
 - A. Recommendation 2006-03- Regarding the Aesthetics of Area G to the Neighboring San Ildefonso Reservation.
 - B. Recommendation 2006-04- Regarding Recommendation to Integrate Natural Resource Damage Assessment With the Environmental Remediation at LANL.
5. Responded to the DOE Response for Recommendations:

- A. Recommendation 2005-10- Regarding Expansion of Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal at Area G.
- B. Recommendation 2006-03- cited above.
- C. Recommendation 2006-04- cited above.

WM Committee Action Items and Issues to be Addressed for 2007/2008:

Priority 1 (60 percent of WMC resources, approximately 72 mh/mo.):

Conduct a Public Forum on Material Disposal Area G (MDA G) in the spring of 2008.

- a. Perform planning for all activities associated with the Forum.
- b. Include the risk and cost assessments of the options for closure of certain burial sites.
- c. Address public interest / public concern about what MDA-G is, what it is used for, what's buried there, etc.
- d. Address what's to be done with the LLW and TRU waste.

Priority 2 (20 percent of WMC resources, approximately 24 mh/mo. This work may overlap the work necessary to prepare for the Public Forum in Priority 1):

Take a leadership role in public involvement, in addition to the Forum, by considering the following activities:

- A. Request LANL to bring technical issues to the public regarding MDA-G closure and expansion.
- B. Consider having LANL perform a lifetime study of MDA G and MDA L to help the public understand options, alternatives and reasons.
- C. Study closure plans for Area G and make recommendations.
- D. Study expansion plans for Area G and make recommendations.
- E. Research modeling tools used for the Performance Assessment (PA) for MDA G, investigate whether the PA was driven by assumptions, models and what inputs were used in the assessment and determine how accurate this baseline set of assumptions was.
- F. Determine what decisions the CAB can be involved in with regard to MDA G expansion and closure.
- G. Actively pursue public comment and public involvement opportunities related to Waste Management Activities at LANL.
- H. Evaluate and make new Recommendations to DOE, in particular with respect to MDA G actions and newly generated LLW disposition at LANL using total life cycle costs.

Priority 3 (10 percent of WMC resources, approximately 12 mh/mo)

Maintain Involvement with the NMED Compliance Order on Consent and other Regulatory Issues through the following activities:

- Monitor LANL progress in meeting Consent Order deliverables and due dates.
- Review and assess Work Plans for MDAs and Record(s) of Decision.
- Monitor LANL performance regarding the MDAs, particularly MDA B at TA-21 and MDA C at TA-50.
- Work with DOE, NMED, and LANL to ensure public participation in oversight and review of remedy selection(s).
- Review and assess the RCRA revisions for LANL due from NMED in August 2007.

Priority 4 (10 percent of WMC resources, approximately 12 mh/mo)

Work with the EMSR Committee, as practical, to:

- Follow actions on Perchlorate, Chromium and other hazardous constituents found in LANL effluents and samples from regional groundwater.
- Encourage a water-recycling program at LANL.

Draft by Ralph Phelps, WM Committee Chair 8-08-07