



ESHID-603701

Los Alamos National Laboratory  
PO Box 1663, MS-M969  
Los Alamos, NM 87545  
505-667-8160

**Environmental Protection and Compliance Division**

Date: June 29, 2022  
Symbol: EPC-DO-22-178  
LA-UR: LA-UR-22-25986

Mr. Rick Shean, Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313

**Subject: Notice and Evidence of Mailing and Publication of Public Notices, Request for Class 2 Amendment to the Closure Plan Open Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399 Burn Tray, Los Alamos National Laboratory, EPA ID# NM0890010515**

Dear Mr. Shean:

This letter transmits to the New Mexico Environment Department - Hazardous Waste Bureau (NMED-HWB) information regarding the public notices initiating the public comment period for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Class 2 permit modification request referenced in the subject of this letter. The Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Los Alamos Field Office and Triad National Security, LLC submitted the permit modification request to the NMED-HWB on June 7, 2022.

The enclosure provides documentation of the mailing of and newspaper publication of the required public notice in accordance with Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 270.41(b)(2). The public notice was published in the Los Alamos Daily Post and the Rio Grande Sun newspapers on June 9, 2022, and in The Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper on June 14, 2022. Public notices were also mailed to the NMED-HWB maintained facility mailing list. The date stamp evidenced on the public notice mailing included in the Enclosure reflects the mailing date of the notices to be June 10, 2022. Additionally, an electronic mail (e-mail) notice was sent to all email addresses in the Regulatory Document e-mail notification system for the Los Alamos National Laboratory on June 9, 2022. The public meeting referenced in the notices is scheduled to be conducted via WebEx on July 12, 2022, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The public notices contained all the access information for the July 12, 2022, WebEx public meeting.

Please contact Patrick L. Padilla at (505) 412-0462 or by email at [plpadilla@lanl.gov](mailto:plpadilla@lanl.gov) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER  
PAYNE (Affiliate)  
Date: 2022.06.29 10:46:49  
-06'00'

Jennifer E. Payne  
Division Leader  
Environmental Protection and Compliance Division  
Triad National Security, LLC  
Los Alamos National Laboratory

JEP/PLP

Enclosure: 1) Evidence of Mailing and Publication of Public Notices, Request for Class 2 Amendment to the Closure Plan Open Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399 Burn Tray, Los Alamos National Laboratory, EPA ID# NM0890010515

Copy:

Rick Shean, NMED-HWB, Santa Fe, NM, rick.shean@state.nm.us  
Neelam Dhawan, NMED-HWB, Santa Fe, NM, Neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us  
Siona Briley, NMED-HWB, Santa Fe, NM, siona.briley@state.nm.us  
Mitchell Schatz, NMED-HWB, Santa Fe, NM, mitchell.schatz@state.nm.us  
Stephen Hoffman, NA-LA, stephen.hoffman@nnsa.doe.gov  
P. Erika Baeza-Wisdom, NA-LA, erika.wisdom@nnsa.doe.gov  
Karen E. Armijo, NA-LA, karen.armijo@nnsa.doe.gov  
Marcus Pinzel, NA-LA, marcus.pinzel@nnsa.doe.gov  
William R. Mairson, Triad, ALDESHQSS, wrmairson@lanl.gov  
Jeannette T. Hyatt, Triad, EWP, jhyatt@lanl.gov  
Jennifer E. Payne, Triad, EPC-DO, jpayne@lanl.gov  
Kristen Honig, Triad, EPC-DO, khonig@lanl.gov  
Andie McLaughlin-Kysar, Triad, EPC-DO, andiek@lanl.gov  
Jessica Moseley, Triad, EPC-WMP, jmoseley@lanl.gov  
Cecilia Trujillo, Triad, EPC-WMP, ceciliat@lanl.gov  
Patrick L. Padilla, Triad, EPC-WMP, plpadilla@lanl.gov  
eshqss-dcrm@lanl.gov  
epccorrespondence@lanl.gov  
lasomailbox@nnsa.doe.gov  
rcra-prr@lanl.gov

# COPY

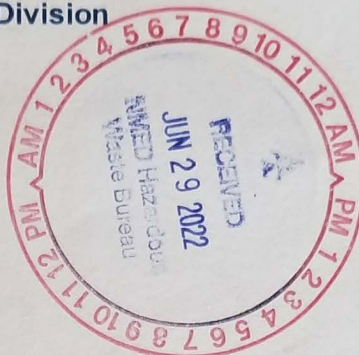


Los Alamos National Laboratory  
PO Box 1663, MS-M969  
Los Alamos, NM 87545  
505-667-8160

## Environmental Protection and Compliance Division

Date: June 29, 2022  
Symbol: EPC-DO-22-178  
LA-UR: LA-UR-22-25986

Mr. Rick Shean, Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313



**Subject: Notice and Evidence of Mailing and Publication of Public Notices, Request for Class 2 Amendment to the Closure Plan Open Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399 Burn Tray, Los Alamos National Laboratory, EPA ID# NM0890010515**

Dear Mr. Shean:

This letter transmits to the New Mexico Environment Department - Hazardous Waste Bureau (NMED-HWB) information regarding the public notices initiating the public comment period for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Class 2 permit modification request referenced in the subject of this letter. The Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Los Alamos Field Office and Triad National Security, LLC submitted the permit modification request to the NMED-HWB on June 7, 2022.

The enclosure provides documentation of the mailing of and newspaper publication of the required public notice in accordance with Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 270.41(b)(2). The public notice was published in the Los Alamos Daily Post and the Rio Grande Sun newspapers on June 9, 2022, and in The Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper on June 14, 2022. Public notices were also mailed to the NMED-HWB maintained facility mailing list. The date stamp evidenced on the public notice mailing included in the Enclosure reflects the mailing date of the notices to be June 10, 2022. Additionally, an electronic mail (e-mail) notice was sent to all email addresses in the Regulatory Document e-mail notification system for the Los Alamos National Laboratory on June 9, 2022. The public meeting referenced in the notices is scheduled to be conducted via WebEx on July 12, 2022, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The public notices contained all the access information for the July 12, 2022, WebEx public meeting.

Please contact Patrick L. Padilla at (505) 412-0462 or by email at [plpadilla@lanl.gov](mailto:plpadilla@lanl.gov) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER  
PAYNE (Affiliate)  
Date: 2022.06.29 10:46:49  
-06'00'

Jennifer E. Payne  
Division Leader  
Environmental Protection and Compliance Division  
Triad National Security, LLC  
Los Alamos National Laboratory

# Enclosure 1

**Evidence of Mailing and Publication of Public Notices,  
Request for Class 2 Amendment to the Closure Plan Open  
Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399 Burn Tray,  
Los Alamos National Laboratory, EPA ID# NM0890010515**

*Date:* June 29, 2022

U.S. Department of Energy,  
National Nuclear Security Administration Los Alamos Field Office, and  
Triad National Security, LLC



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Amateur Naturalist: The Growth Of Aspen

By **ROBERT DRYJA**  
Los Alamos

The Quemazon mesa area is a geologic thumb that extends eastward from the rim of the Valles Caldera mountains.

It has a relatively flat, sloping top that represents a kind of natural garden for plants growing after the Cerro Grande Forest fire from 22 years ago. Variations in the growth of plants can be seen over the summer. Groves of Aspen trees provide one variation for April and May.

Aspen trees appear in small groves, but one grove can look very different from another. One grove may have trees that are similar in size and with no leaves. Another nearby grove in contrast may be completely covered with leaves. This difference can be explained by how aspen tree grow.

An aspen tree has roots that grow

horizontally from its trunk. These roots are relatively close the surface. New trunks can grow upward every few feet. The result is a grove of what appears to be many separate trees but actually is an extension of a single plant. (This is called cloning.)

A grove on the Quemazon mesa may be 20 to 100 feet wide but is actually one tree. A clue that a grove is composed of a single plant is given by the similar size of the trees. They all began growing up from the ground at about the same time following the forest fire. The trunks in one grove may be covered with leaves while the trunks in another nearby grove have not yet grown leaves.

Aspens that are a result of cloning can spread over a much larger area, given enough time and the land formation. The Pando grove in Utah covers over a 100 acres. An estimated 40,000 trunks weighing 6,600 tons compose the one plant.

This makes it the heaviest known organism. The root system is estimated to be several thousand years old, but any single cloned aspen trunk lives for 100-130 years.

Clonal growth has an advantage in relation to forest fires. The roots are protected by growing underground. A new plant appearing about the ground already has an extensive root system to support its growth. Aspen trees therefore appear as the first new tree growth following a fire. It may be decades for other kinds of trees, such as ponderosa pine, to become the dominant species.

Cloning means that a group of aspen trees have the same genes from a parent tree. Aspen also can reproduce sexually by combining separate sets of genes. There can be an interaction of male pollen with female flowers. Remarkably small seeds are created. Tree branches may appear to have fuzzy caterpillars called catkins hanging from them. Small wispy white balls with a seed can be seen drifting away in a faint breeze.

Thousands of seeds may be disbursed from a catkins. They may be carried by breezes for long distances.

An aspen tree therefore has two kinds of reproduction, each with a particular advantage. Clonal reproduction results in a small number of closely spaced tree trunks but which are likely to live.

Heterosexual reproduction results in a much wider dispersion but only a few seeds successfully germinate.




The aspen trees are about eight feet tall and a few feet from one other in the Quemazon mesa area that extends eastward from the rim of the Valles Caldera mountains. Photo by Robert Dryja



The aspen trees are about 10 feet tall. This grove is a short distance from the grove shown in Picture 1 above. Photo by Robert Dryja



Catkins hanging from a branch. White fuzz toward the top of a catkins is about to be blown away, carrying seeds with it. Each green pod toward the bottom contains growing seeds. Photo by Robert Dryja



# Los Alamos

## NATIONAL LABORATORY

June 2022  
**Public Notice of Class 2 Amendment to the Closure Plan Open Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399**  
Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, EPA ID No. NM0890010515

**Activity:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Triad National Security, LLC (Triad), have submitted a Class 2 permit modification request to amend the January 2019 Closure Plan Open Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399 Burn Tray. The modification supports additional closure activities at the site.

**Facility:** The Permit authorizes DOE; Triad; and Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC (N3B) [the Permittees] to manage, store, and treat hazardous waste at LANL. Under authority of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (Section 74-4-1 et seq., NMSA 1978, as amended, 1992) and the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20.4.1 NMAC), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) can approve or deny hazardous waste permits and closure plans, permit modifications, and amendments.

**Availability:** The proposed permit modification is available for public review weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at

**NMED - Hazardous Waste Bureau**  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313

A copy is also available at the LANL Public Reading Room by appointment on weekdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at

**Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Office**  
94 Cities of Gold Road, Pojoaque, New Mexico  
<http://www.lanl.gov/community-environment/environmental-stewardship/public-reading-room.php>

Electronic copies of the permit modification request can also be found in the LANL Electronic Public Reading Room (EPRR) at <http://epr.lanl.gov>

The LANL Hazardous Waste Facility Permit can be found on the NMED LANL Permit web page at <https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/lanl-permit/>

**Meeting:** A public meeting about the permit modification request will be held from 5:30 pm to 7:30pm on July 12, 2022 via WebEx. As we navigate our way through this unique time, the health and safety of our staff, contractors, and the communities is our priority. As a result, this public meeting will be conducted virtually in lieu of an in-person meeting.

When it is time to join the meeting:  
**WebEx link:** <https://lanl-us.webex.com/lanl-us/j.php?MTID=m0637abc65755569bbdb55adc29d866fa>  
**Meeting number (call-in access code):** 2455 313 5853  
**Meeting password:** pRmR3m62gaK  
**Call-In number:** 1-415-655-0002  
**WebEx app:** 24553135853@lanl-us.webex.com

**Comments:** Any person who would like to comment on the proposed Class 2 permit modification may do so by contacting:

**Neelam Dhawan**  
NMED-Hazardous Waste Bureau,  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313  
Telephone (505) 476-6000 or e-mail: [neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us](mailto:neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us).

The Permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the NMED contact person. The public comment period for this permit modification will run from June 9, 2022 through August 8, 2022. Any person who wishes to comment on this action should submit hard copy or e-mail comments with the commenter's name and address to the addresses above. Only written comments received on or before August 8, 2022, will be considered.

**Facility Contact:** If you have questions, please contact Los Alamos National Laboratory:  
**Steven Horak**  
Environmental Communication & Public Involvement  
P.O. Box 1663, MS S020, Los Alamos, NM 87545  
Phone/email: 505-551-4514 / [envoutreach@lanl.gov](mailto:envoutreach@lanl.gov)

WWW.LADAILYPOST.COM  
DAILY NEWS 24/7



## Baseball

# Two Bobcats Selected for Game

Continued from B1

being with them in the dug-out.

Talachy's teammate pitcher Andres Borrego was also selected as an all star, but was unable to play in the series after catching COVID-19. Borrego logged 31 innings with 39 strikeouts, and had been a top pitcher the last two seasons, and he batted .410 offensively.

"I think he would have been really proud," Talachy said. "He's been working on his craft a lot. He's a really good pitcher."

"He was honored, and he was very apologetic that he couldn't make it," DeVargas said. "He was very upbeat, he was very ready to come and play."

Marcos Gasca, who batted .587 and led the state — across all divisions — with 45 stolen bases, likely would



(SUNphoto by Ari Levin)

**McCurdy Charter School's Kordero Talachy receives a medal before the June 3 baseball all-star game.**

have been picked as an all-star but had a conflict with his graduation celebration and thus was not nominated.

Peñasco's Juan Arellano was also selected as an all star playing for the red team. In the first game, he struck out twice in two at bats as the starting leftfielder.

Statistics were not available from the two games played on Saturday, though the green team swept the red

team in all three games.

"This experience is something I'll never forget," Talachy said. "I'll always have the jersey, I'll always have the medal. And it's cool to compete with the best of the best."

"I talked to him, and he was just saying, 'Wow, coach, these are some good players here,'" DeVargas said of Talachy. "And I go, 'Just like you.'"



(SUNphoto by Ari Levin)

**Peñasco High School's Juan Arellano (far left, blue hat) and McCurdy Charter School's Kordero Talachy (third from left, blue and red hat) watch the action of the June 3 baseball all-star game from the dugout along with their red team teammates.**

## Rodeo

# Three from Rio Arriba Win State



(Photo courtesy Bayler Faulkner)

**Escalante High School's Monte Faulkner rides a saddle bronc, and placed first in the event at the May 26-30 state championship in Lovington.**

Continued from B1

His mother, Tana Martinez, said the family rodeo tradition, especially in bull riding, goes at least as far as her grandfather. Miguel Jesus has competed in competitions in Texas and Colorado, and now gets to travel to Georgia for the national championships.

"He's not one to boast about his winnings," Tana Martinez said. "But he is very excited. He's excited to go and compete in Georgia."

The junior finals are June 19-

25 in Perry, Ga., and the high school finals are the next month in Gillette, Wyo.

"They're brimming with excitement," Tanner Trujillo said of the national championship. "They practice every week night. The preparation is in full swing."

Addison Tixier from Coronado Middle School won third place in light rifle, becoming a national qualifier.

The Faulkner family hosts practices at their house in Rutherford — right outside Tierra Amarilla — as often as weekly

for the local competitors, and brings in visitors from as far as Moriarty and Santa Rosa. Bayler said she is not entirely sure why they drive well over three hours for practices, but everyone there is passionate about rodeo.

While rodeo is much more common and popular in southern New Mexico, the North has its own history. Shannon Terrazas, a 2018 Escalante graduate, is currently competing with the Professional Bull Riders organization, as is his younger brother Wyatt. Several others from the Chama area have competed professionally.

After starting the team in the fall, Bayler Faulkner organized the team to focus on the specific High School competition, rather than finding any tournament nearby.

"It was a busy year coming out of the summer," she said. "We were all pretty amped up for our NMHSRA seasons."

And Faulkner wants the team to leave a continued legacy by bringing more and new people into rodeo.

"With the Escalante rodeo team, I hope to leave a place for the kids who do actively rodeo to have that support system," she said. "And for those that maybe have less of a chance to be involved in rodeo, but have an interest, to have a place for them to go ... and just have it be a lot more close to home and accessible."

## PUBLIC NOTICE

June 2022

**Public Notice of Class 2 Amendment to the Closure Plan Open Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399 Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, EPA ID No. NM0890010515**

**Activity:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Triad National Security, LLC (Triad), have submitted a Class 2 permit modification request to amend the January 2019 *Closure Plan Open Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399 Burn Tray*. The modification supports additional closure activities at the site.

**Facility:** The Permit authorizes DOE, Triad; and Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC (N3B) [the Permittees] to manage, store, and treat hazardous waste at LANL. Under authority of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (Section 74-4-1 et seq., NMSA 1978, as amended, 1992) and the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20.4.1 NMAC), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) can approve or deny hazardous waste permits and closure plans, permit modifications, and amendments.

**Availability:** The proposed permit modification is available for public review weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at

**NMED - Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313**

A copy is also available at the LANL Public Reading Room by appointment on weekdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at

**Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Office  
94 Cities of Gold Road, Pojoaque, New Mexico**

<http://www.lanl.gov/community-environment/environmental-stewardship/public-reading-room.php>

Electronic copies of the permit modification request can also be found in the **LANL Electronic Public Reading Room (EPRR)** at <http://epr.lanl.gov>

The LANL Hazardous Waste Facility Permit can be found on the NMED LANL Permit web page at <https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/lanl-permit/>

**Meeting:** A public meeting about the permit modification request will be held from 5:30 pm to 7:30pm on July 12, 2022 via WebEx. As we navigate our way through this unique time, the health and safety of our staff, contractors, and the communities is our priority. As a result, this public meeting will be conducted virtually in lieu of an in-person meeting.

When it is time to join the meeting:  
**WebEx link:** <https://lanl-us.webex.com/lanl-us/j.php?MTID=m0637abc65755569bbdb55adc29d866fa>  
**Meeting number (call-in access code):** 2455 313 5853  
**Meeting password:** pRmR3m62gaK  
**Call-in number:** 1-415-855-0002  
**WebEx app:** 24553135853@lanl-us.webex.com

**Comments:** Any person who would like to comment on the proposed Class 2 permit modification may do so by contacting:

**Neelam Dhawan  
NMED-Hazardous Waste Bureau,  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313  
Telephone (505) 476-6000 or e-mail: [neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us](mailto:neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us)**

The Permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the NMED contact person. The public comment period for this permit modification will run from June 9, 2022 through August 8, 2022. Any person who wishes to comment on this action should submit hard copy or e-mail comments with the commenter's name and address to the addresses above. Only written comments received on or before August 8, 2022, will be considered.

**Facility Contact:** If you have questions, please contact Los Alamos National Laboratory  
**Steven Horak**

**Environmental Communication & Public Involvement  
P.O. Box 1663, MS S020, Los Alamos, NM 87545  
Phone/email: 505-551-4514 / [envoutreach@lanl.gov](mailto:envoutreach@lanl.gov)**

# NOW HIRING!

Apply at [santaclaran.com](http://santaclaran.com)  
or call (505) 367-4900

**AVANYU**  
TRAVEL PLAZA



IRAQ

# Efforts to form government break down

By Jane Arraf  
New York Times

Seven months of efforts to form a new government in Iraq were in turmoil Monday, a day after Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr directed members of parliament who are loyal to him to resign from the seats they won in an October election.

Al-Sadr, who has become one of the biggest political forces in Iraq since emerging in 2003, has no formal role but commands the allegiance of the single largest bloc in the 329-seat parliament. The 73 lawmakers of his movement submitted their resignations Sunday after the collapse of months of negotiations by al-Sadr to form a coalition government with Sunni and Kurdish partners.

On Monday, al-Sadr's candidate for prime minister, Jaafar al-Sadr, a cousin of the cleric and currently the Iraqi ambassador to London, said in a post on Twitter he was withdrawing his candidacy.

The talks on forming a government broke down amid disagreements over who would be president. Under Iraq's parliamentary system, established after a U.S.-led coalition toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003, the president nominates a prime minister and Cabinet ministers who must then be approved by parliament. The mercurial Muqtada al-Sadr suggested that in abandoning the negotiations, he was sacrificing his bloc's hard-won gains in the elections last year so that a government could

be formed.

"This step is considered a sacrifice for the homeland and the people to save them from an unknown fate," al-Sadr said in a statement. "If the survival of the Sadr bloc is an obstacle to the formation of the government, then all representatives of the bloc are ready to resign from parliament."

His announcement culminated months of political paralysis that underscored the dysfunction of Iraq's political system and the fragmentation of the multiple Shiite Muslim political blocs. Those inter-Shiite divisions have supplanted sectarian tensions between Sunni and Shiite groups in past years as a main source of Iraqi instability.

Al-Sadr, the son of a revered

Shiite cleric assassinated during Saddam's regime, formed a militia in 2003 to fight U.S. forces after the U.S. invasion of Iraq turned into an occupation. He also battled Iraqi government forces in Baghdad and in the southern city of Basra before disbanding his militia, called the Mahdi Army.

It was not immediately clear whether the resignations were merely a negotiating tactic on al-Sadr's part or a real break with parliamentary politics. But his withdrawal and a related announcement that he was closing most Sadr offices around the country raised fears he could replace political negotiations with destabilizing street protests — something he has used before as a lever of pressure.

## Search continues for missing men in Brazilian Amazon

ATALAIA DO NORTE, Brazil — The search for an Indigenous expert and a journalist who disappeared in a remote area of Brazil's Amazon continued Monday following the discovery of a backpack, laptop and other personal belongings submerged in a river.

The items were taken by federal police officers by boat to Atalaia do Norte, the closest city to the search, and police said Sunday night they had identified the items as belonging to the missing men, including a health card and clothes of Bruno Pereira, the Brazilian Indigenous expert.

The backpack, which was identified as belonging to freelance journalist Dom Phillips of Britain, was found tied to a tree that was half-submerged, a firefighter told reporters in Atalaia do Norte.

It is the end of the rainy season in the region and part of the forest is flooded.

Paulo Marubo, president of local Indigenous association Univaja, for which Pereira was an adviser, told the Associated Press that search parties from the army, navy, federal police, civil defense, firefighters and military police were working in the area where the belongings were found.

Upon returning to Atalaia do Norte after a full day of searching Monday, a Federal Police officer told reporters they had not found either man's body or other items.

Federal police issued a statement earlier Monday denying media reports the two men's bodies had been found. Last week, police recovered organic matter of apparent human origin in the river, which has been sent for analysis. They haven't detailed what the material is, but President Jair Bolsonaro told local radio Monday that it was "human viscera."

Police have also reported finding traces of blood in the boat of a fisherman who is under arrest as the only suspect in the disappearance.

Associated Press

# Virus prevented inspections of many formula plants

By Matthew Perrone  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. regulators have historically inspected baby formula plants at least once a year, but they did not inspect any of the three biggest manufacturers in 2020, according to federal records reviewed by the Associated Press.

When they finally did get inside an Abbott Nutrition formula plant in Michigan after a two-year gap, they found standing water and lax sanitation procedures. But inspectors offered only voluntary suggestions for fixing the problems and issued no formal warning.

Inspectors would return five months later after four infants who consumed powdered formula from the plant suffered bacterial infections. They found bacterial contamination inside the factory, leading to a four-month shutdown and turning a festering supply shortage into a full-blown crisis that sent parents scrambling to find formula and forced the U.S. to airlift products from overseas.

The gap in baby formula plant inspections, brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, is getting new scrutiny from Congress and government watchdogs investigating the series of missteps that led to the crisis.

A recent bill would require the Food and Drug Administration to inspect infant formula facilities every six months. And the

government's inspector general for health has launched an inquiry into the FDA's handling of Abbott's facility, the largest in the U.S.

Abbott resumed production at the plant early this month under a legally binding agreement with the FDA, but the shutdown and nationwide shortage exposed how concentrated the industry has become in the U.S., with a handful of companies accounting for roughly 90 percent of the market.

As COVID-19 swept across the U.S. in early 2020, the FDA pulled most of its safety inspectors from the field, skipping thousands of routine plant inspections.

The FDA did conduct more than 800 "mission critical"

inspections during the first year of the pandemic, the agency said in a statement. Regulators selected facilities for inspections based on whether they carried a specific safety risk or were needed to produce an important medical therapy.

Only three of the nation's 23 facilities that make, package or distribute formula made the cut. The FDA resumed routine inspections in July.

The inspection records reviewed by the AP show gaps as large as 2½ years between FDA's 2019 inspections and when regulators returned to plants owned by the three leading formula manufacturers: Abbott, Reckitt and Gerber.

In fact, the FDA still has yet to

return to one key plant owned by Reckitt and two owned by Gerber, according to agency records. All those facilities are operating around the clock to boost U.S. formula production.

The Redistricting Commission is hosting public input sessions to solicit feedback on five new district map proposals based on census data.

**IN-PERSON PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- June 14 @5:30PM - Genoveva Chavez Community Center
- June 28 @5:30PM - Southside Library
- June 30 @3:00PM - City Hall Council Chambers

Can't attend in person? Send your comments to The City Clerk's Office!

Mail: PO Box 909, Santa Fe, NM 87504-0909  
Phone: 505-955-6520  
Email: gfcardenas@santafenm.gov  
(Subject Line: Redistricting Commission)

santafenm.gov/redistricting2022

June 2022

**Public Notice of Class 2 Amendment to the Closure Plan Open Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399 Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, EPA ID No. NM0890010515**

**Activity:**  
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Triad National Security, LLC (Triad), have submitted a Class 2 permit modification request to amend the January 2019 Closure Plan Open Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399 Burn Tray. The modification supports additional closure activities at the site.

**Facility:**  
The Permit authorizes DOE; Triad; and Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC (N3B) [the Permittees] to manage, store, and treat hazardous waste at LANL. Under authority of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (Section 74-4-1 et seq., NMSA 1978, as amended, 1992) and the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20.4.1 NMAC), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) can approve or deny hazardous waste permits and closure plans, permit modifications, and amendments.

**Availability:**  
The proposed permit modification is available for public review weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at  
**NMED - Hazardous Waste Bureau**  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313

A copy is also available at the LANL Public Reading Room by appointment on weekdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at  
**Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Office**  
94 Cities of Gold Road, Pojoaque, New Mexico  
<http://www.lanl.gov/community-environment/environmental-stewardship/public-reading-room.php>

Electronic copies of the permit modification request can also be found in the  
**LANL Electronic Public Reading Room (EPRR)** at <http://epr.lanl.gov>

The LANL Hazardous Waste Facility Permit can be found on the NMED LANL Permit web page at <https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/lanl-permit/>

**Meeting:**  
A public meeting about the permit modification request will be held from 5:30 pm to 7:30pm on July 12, 2022 via WebEx. As we navigate our way through this unique time, the health and safety of our staff, contractors, and the communities is our priority. As a result, this public meeting will be conducted virtually in lieu of an in-person meeting.

When it is time to join the meeting:  
WebEx link: <https://lanl-us.webex.com/lanl-us/j.php?MTID=m0637abc6575569b9bdb55adc29d866fa>  
Meeting number (call-in access code): 2455 313 5853  
Meeting password: pRmR3m62gaK  
Call-In number: 1-415-655-0002  
WebEx app: 24553135853@lanl-us.webex.com

**Comments:**  
Any person who would like to comment on the proposed Class 2 permit modification may do so by contacting:  
**Neelam Dhawan**  
NMED-Hazardous Waste Bureau,  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313  
Telephone (505) 476-6000 or e-mail: [neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us](mailto:neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us).

The Permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the NMED contact person. The public comment period for this permit modification will run from June 9, 2022 through August 8, 2022. Any person who wishes to comment on this action should submit hard copy or e-mail comments with the commenter's name and address to the addresses above. Only written comments received on or before August 8, 2022, will be considered.

**Facility Contact:**  
If you have questions, please contact Los Alamos National Laboratory.  
**Steven Horak**  
Environmental Communication & Public Involvement  
P.O. Box 1663, MS S020, Los Alamos, NM 87545  
Phone/email: 505-551-4514 / [envoutreach@lanl.gov](mailto:envoutreach@lanl.gov)





**Los Alamos**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

**Environmental Protection and Compliance Division**  
Waste Management Programs  
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop M969  
Los Alamos, NM 87545



US POSTAGE PAID BY PITNEY BOWES



ZIP 87545 \$ 000.53<sup>0</sup>  
02 4W  
0000335293 JUN 10 2022

Patrick Padilla  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, MS M969  
Los Alamos, NM 87545





June 2022

**Public Notice of Class 2 Amendment to the Closure Plan Open Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399  
Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, EPA ID No. NM0890010515**

**Activity:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Triad National Security, LLC (Triad), have submitted a Class 2 permit modification request to amend the January 2019 *Closure Plan Open Burning Treatment Unit Technical Area 16-399 Burn Tray*. The modification supports additional closure activities at the site.

**Facility:** The Permit authorizes DOE; Triad; and Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC (N3B) [the Permittees] to manage, store, and treat hazardous waste at LANL. Under authority of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (Section 74-4-1 et seq., NMSA 1978, as amended, 1992) and the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20.4.1 NMAC), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) can approve or deny hazardous waste permits and closure plans, permit modifications, and amendments.

**Availability:** The proposed permit modification is available for public review weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at

**NMED - Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313**

A copy is also available at the LANL Public Reading Room by appointment on weekdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at

**Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Office  
94 Cities of Gold Road, Pojoaque, New Mexico**

<http://www.lanl.gov/community-environment/environmental-stewardship/public-reading-room.php>

Electronic copies of the permit modification request can also be found in the  
**LANL Electronic Public Reading Room (EPRR)** at <http://epr.lanl.gov>

The LANL Hazardous Waste Facility Permit can be found on the NMED LANL Permit web page at  
<https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/lanl-permit/>

**Meeting:** A public meeting about the permit modification request will be held from 5:30 pm to 7:30pm on July 12, 2022 via WebEx. As we navigate our way through this unique time, the health and safety of our staff, contractors, and the communities is our priority. As a result, this public meeting will be conducted virtually in lieu of an in-person meeting.

When it is time to join the meeting:

**WebEx Link:** <https://lanl-us.webex.com/lanl-us/j.php?MTID=m0637abc6575569bbdb55adc29d866fa>

**Meeting number (call in access code):** 2455 313 5853

**Meeting password:** pRmR3m62gaK

**Call In No:** 1-415-655-0002

**WebEx App:** 24553135853@lanl-us.webex.com

**Comments:** Any person who would like to comment on the proposed Class 2 permit modification may do so by contacting:

**Neelam Dhawan  
NMED-Hazardous Waste Bureau,  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313  
Telephone (505) 476-6000 or e-mail: [neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us](mailto:neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us).**

The Permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the NMED contact person. The public comment period for this permit modification will run from June 9, 2022 through August 8, 2022. Any person who wishes to comment on this action should submit hard copy or e-mail comments with the commenter's name and address to the addresses above. Only written comments received on or before August 8, 2022, will be considered.

**Facility Contact:** If you have questions, please contact Los Alamos National Laboratory.

**Steven Horak  
Environmental Communication & Public Involvement  
P.O. Box 1663, MS S020, Los Alamos, NM 87545  
Phone/email: 505-551-4514 / [envoutreach@lanl.gov](mailto:envoutreach@lanl.gov)**