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RCRA



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DRAFT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN





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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is to develop and apply science and technology to

- Ensure the safety, security, and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent;
- Reduce global threats; and
- Solve other emerging national security challenges.

To accomplish our mission, the Laboratory generates some hazardous and mixed waste. Hazardous waste management activities are regulated by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) pursuant to New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act [HWA; Chapter 74, Article 4 NMSA 1978] and regulations promulgated under the Act. In 1989, NMED issued the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (EPA ID Number NM0890010515-1) that established standards for how LANL manages, stores and treats hazardous wastes on-site and for the closure and post-closure care of permitted waste management units.

On December 28, 2010, NMED renewed LANL Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (the Permit). More information can be found on the [NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau LANL Permit page: http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/hwb/lanlperm.html#FinalPermit](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/hwb/lanlperm.html#FinalPermit)

Los Alamos National Laboratory is owned by the Department of Energy (DOE) and operated under contract by Los Alamos National Security, LLC. The Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC, are co-permittees on the LANL Hazardous Facility Waste Permit.

Public involvement in the activities of the Permit is the subject of the Community Relations Plan (CRP).

2.0 PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

Section 1.12 of the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit requires that LANL establish and implement a Community Relations Plan (CRP). The purpose of the CRP is to keep surrounding communities and interested members of the public informed about permit-related activities and provide mechanisms to gather comments and suggestions. Permit-related activities include but are not limited to waste management, closure and post closure activities and corrective actions.

LANL works to increase public knowledge of environmental science, remediation methodology and stewardship practices, to inform the public of the status of the regulatory compliance and to use stakeholder input to inform environmental stewardship decisions.

Questions to consider for your input:

- Is the plan written such that you understand the purpose of the plan?
- Do you understand the activities covered by the Permit?
- Do you need more information about the regulatory agencies involved?

We are soliciting comments from communities, organizations and interested members of the public as we write our Community Relations Plan.

3.0 WHOM WILL WE CONSULT?

Toward this objective, LANL interacts with diverse sectors of the public: the tribal and pueblo governments contiguous with the Laboratory and their members, nearby citizen and civic groups, federal, state and local elected officials of the surrounding communities, our workers and their families and the interested public.

4.0 ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN

Consistent with the terms of the Permit, the Community Relations Plan will provide for six elements of community relations. The plan, which will be issued before June 28, 2011, will describe how LANL will

- (1) establish an open working relationship with communities and interested members of the public;
- (2) establish a productive government to government relationship with local tribes and pueblos (note: though the Plan will describe establishing relationships with local tribes, government to government relationships are conducted only by the Department of Energy);
- (3) keep communities and interested members of the public informed of permit actions of interest;
- (4) minimize disputes and resolve differences with communities and interested members of the public;
- (5) provide a mechanism for the timely dissemination of information in response to individual requests; and
- (6) provide a mechanism for communities and interested members of the public to provide feedback and input to the Permittees.

Below are our preliminary plans to provide for these aspects, pending public input.

5.0 DRAFT COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

The following elements constitute the LANL Community Relations Plan. Each section responds to one of the six elements required in the Permit as listed in Section 4.0. The draft Community Relations Plan is written to be comprehensive but will also be a living document, informed by our public and updated annually to include the input that we receive.

5.1 ESTABLISH AN OPEN WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNITIES AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Los Alamos National Laboratory environmental stewardship and hazardous waste management activities have become increasingly transparent and responsive to the public.

Measured by our annual Community Leaders Survey, respondents reporting that they are satisfied that LANL is providing effective environmental stewardship, monitoring and remediation increased from 63% in 2008, to 70% in 2009 and to 73% in 2010. Through the Community Relations Plan, we will use community input to continue the trend.

To consider for your comments:
What specific actions provide for an open working relationship with communities and interested members of the public?

5.1.1 Public Notification: Face to Face, On-line, Via Email and Through News Media

The Permittees are soliciting feedback in several manners so that the public can access the draft Community Relations Plan and provide comment

- Letters to the Facility Mailing list
- Email notification to the over 7000 email subscribers who have requested information about LANL environmental activities.
- Notices published in four local newspapers
- A link from the LANL environmental web site whereby readers can provide feedback using a fillable form.
- Input is solicited at public meetings and from community groups.

Ways to Participate

- LANL in the News
- www.lanl.gov/Environment
- Sign Up For Email Notification
- Call With Questions
- Public Briefings
- Formal Meetings
 - Class 1 Permit Modifications
 - Class 2 Permit Modifications
- Facility Mailing List
- [How do you prefer to participate?](#)

This solicitation for comments will be conducted annually to update and improve upon the CRP.

5.1.2 LANL Environmental Web Site www.lanl.gov/environment

Through the LANL Environmental web site, members of the public may

- (1) read the draft Community Relations Plan at www.lanl.gov/environment/waste/docs/CRPform.pdf
- (2) fill out and submit the related comment/suggestion form online or print it for mailing,
- (3) sign an optional consent form that allows the Permittees to post their suggested plan improvements to the CRP web page and
- (4) provide contact information to receive future information.

The extensive website provides educational and informational content and supplies email and telephone contacts for answering questions and giving comments throughout the year.

5.1.3 Public Meetings and Briefings

To continually improve relationships and dialogue with the community, LANL hosts community meetings, formal public meetings for Class 2 and 3 permit modifications, and informal meetings with interested groups and citizens. LANL requests invitations from community groups to attend their meetings for the purpose of sharing information, discussing environmental actions, and encouraging public participation. LANL also participates in recurring public meetings held by the DOE, the New Mexico Community Foundation, local pueblos, the Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board and the New Mexico Environment Department.

5.1.4 Tours

Tours help acquaint the public with specific compliance and corrective action sites particularly during investigation and cleanup activities. Written information supplements the discussions during the tours. Seeing for themselves, citizens are better able to provide informed suggestions for improvements to environmental practices.

5.1.5 Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board (NNMCAB)

The NNMCAB is a DOE-chartered site-specific advisory board whose purpose is to provide independent advice and recommendations to DOE regarding the Laboratory's corrective action and waste management activities and associated environmental issues. It is composed of citizens representing the communities and pueblos of northern New Mexico. The NNMCAB holds monthly public meetings and has chartered a number of subcommittees to address waste management, environmental surveillance, monitoring and remediation. LANL provides information and tours to the NNMCAB and has staff participation in its board and committee meetings.

5.2 ESTABLISH A PRODUCTIVE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL TRIBES AND PUEBLOS

The pueblos of northern New Mexico have well established government-to-government relationships with Los Alamos National Laboratory as delineated in formal cooperative agreements and with the Department of Energy as dictated in the Accord agreements.

DOE Policy 144.1, *Department of Energy American Indian Tribal Government Interactions and Policy*, communicates U.S. Department of Energy programmatic and field responsibilities in relationships with sovereign American Indian and Alaskan Native tribal governments.

Question to consider for your input:
What types of outreach best address your needs so that you can be informed about LANL activities?

- News stories
- Web site
- Electronic reading room
- Email notifications
- Physical print library
- Open houses and posters
- Public meetings
- Workshops
- Focus groups
- Tours
- Citizens' guide
- Expert panels
- Community festivals
- Information telephone line
- Email address for questions

Provisions in the Community Relations Plan will be applied to augment these already robust agreements for the activities covered by the Permit including waste management, closure and post closure activities and corrective actions. Pursuant to this goal, LANL meets regularly with the environment departments of pueblos, and schedules periodic meetings with the governance of the pueblos and their citizenry to discuss specific topics.

5.3 KEEP COMMUNITIES AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF PERMIT ACTIONS OF INTEREST

The major objective of information dissemination is to familiarize the public with environmental stewardship, waste management and remediation practices so the public may participate knowledgeably in providing suggested improvements.

5.3.1 Public Meetings and Briefings

LANL hosts community meetings and visits community groups to provide briefings. Some groups include local and tribal governments, civic organizations, local and regional governments, schools and universities, and non-profit organizations. The primary goals of these meetings are informational briefings, individual engagement, dialogue and solicitation of feedback.

5.3.2 Mailing and Email Lists

The public is notified of events through mailings from the NMED-maintained Facility Mailing List. The Facility Mailing List consists of individuals, organizations, and government and tribal officials in northern New Mexico who have requested to be placed on the list or who have submitted comments on the LANL Hazardous Waste Facility Permit in the past. Additionally, the public may sign up to receive email the required notifications when new actions or documents are generated relating to the Permit. The link for signup can be found at www.lanl.gov/environment.

5.3.3 Public Notification

In addition to the provisions in 5.3.2, the public is also notified through public service announcements on local radio stations; notices and advertisements in local newspapers, such as Albuquerque Journal North, Santa Fe New Mexican, Rio Grande Sun, and Los Alamos Monitor; news releases and responses to queries from state, trade, and national media, and on LANL's web site at www.lanl.gov/environment.

5.3.4 LANL Environmental Web Site www.lanl.gov/environment

To educate and inform the public, the LANL Environmental Web Site shares information organized by subject: air quality, biological resources, cleanup actions, compliance and monitoring, cultural resource management, risk reduction, waste management and water resources.

5.3.5 Information Repository

LANL maintains two information repositories for environmental documents. Reports published pursuant to the requirements of the Permit and other pertinent information are

posted to the electronic Public Reading Room at epr.lanl.gov . A print Public Reading Room, currently located at the J. Robert Oppenheimer Study Center at corner of West Jemez and Casa Grande Roads, contains the subset of printed hard-copy documents specified by the Permit.

In compliance with the requirements in Section 1.12 of the Permit, the following documents will be placed in both the electronic and the print Public Reading Rooms:

- Permit applications
- Permit modification requests and NMED responses
- Waste Minimization Report
- Biennial Report
- Corrective action documents
- Notices of deficiency or disapproval (NODs), NOD responses, final approval letters, and NMED directions associated with the documents
- Notices of violation (NOV), administrative compliance orders, responses required by the NMED, and NMED directions associated with the Permit.

Location Location Location

What location around Los Alamos is most convenient for you when attending a public meeting or visiting a library?

- Pojoaque
- Santa Fe
- Española
- Los Alamos
- My computer in my home
- A computer in any library
- Video conferencing

As new documents are issued, these will be placed in both Public Reading Rooms within 10 days of submitting the information to the New Mexico Environment Department.

LANL will conduct training annually to teach the public how to access and search the documents in the Public Reading rooms.

5.4 MINIMIZE DISPUTES AND RESOLVE DIFFERENCES WITH COMMUNITIES AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

LANL's principal strategy for minimizing disputes is to comply meticulously with applicable permits, regulations, laws, and milestone, then accurately document our compliance so that our regulator can approve LANL's hazardous waste management practices.

Conflict grows in the medium of misunderstanding. Even with differences of perspective, addressing issues can be collaborative. Our proactive process can minimize, prevent and resolve conflict by first proactively providing information in an understandable manner to a broad spectrum of community members as specified in Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 above.

Secondly, it is LANL's practice to employ facilitators to conduct public meetings and to accept public comments and suggestions through the mechanisms described above.

Finally, the Permittees will give careful consideration to public comments and suggestions, and work in consultation with communities and interested members of the public to avoid disputes and to resolve differences.

The Permittees will address comments that allow for a response and provide the response to the community or individual with whom it originated. Questions, suggestions, inquiries and responses specific to the Community Relations Plan will be posted to the LANL Environmental web page, with the consent of the parties involved.

5.5 PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR THE TIMELY DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS

LANL is committed to being responsive to reasonable public requests. Our policy is to provide any member of the public access to information required by the Permit. In order to speed the process of responding, we use the provisions described in Section 5.1: email, telephone and mail. We provide web links to information in the electronic Public Reading Room.

5.6 PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR COMMUNITIES AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK AND INPUT TO THE PERMITTEES

The Community Relations Plan provides the public with a variety of opportunities to get information personally, observe activities, discuss issues and provide feedback. As required by regulation, meetings are held for the purpose of obtaining public comments and recommendations on certain proposed actions that involve Class 2 and 3 modifications of the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit.

LANL provides opportunities for public involvement at any time via our email address, envoutreach@lanl.gov as well as during Permit modification public meetings, tours and project-specific presentations. With permission, comments are posted to our web site and forwarded to the New Mexico Environment Department for consideration.

TIME LINE FOR PUBLICATION



COMMENT ON THIS PLAN:

TO SUBMIT COMMENTS TO THIS COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN:

Use web form found at: www.lanl.gov/environment/waste/docs/CRPform.pdf

Call: Environmental Outreach Office: 505-667-0216

Email address: envoutreach@lanl.gov

Mailing address: Lorrie Bonds Lopez
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS M996
Los Alamos, NM 87545

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

LANL Environmental Web site: www.lanl.gov/environment

Sign up for email notification: [What is LANL doing?](#)

Visit the Electronic Public Reading Room: epr.lanl.gov

Call: Environmental Outreach Office: 505-667-0216

Email address: envoutreach@lanl.gov

Visit the Print Public Reading Room: West Jemez Road at Casa Grande
Los Alamos, NM [\(map\)](#)