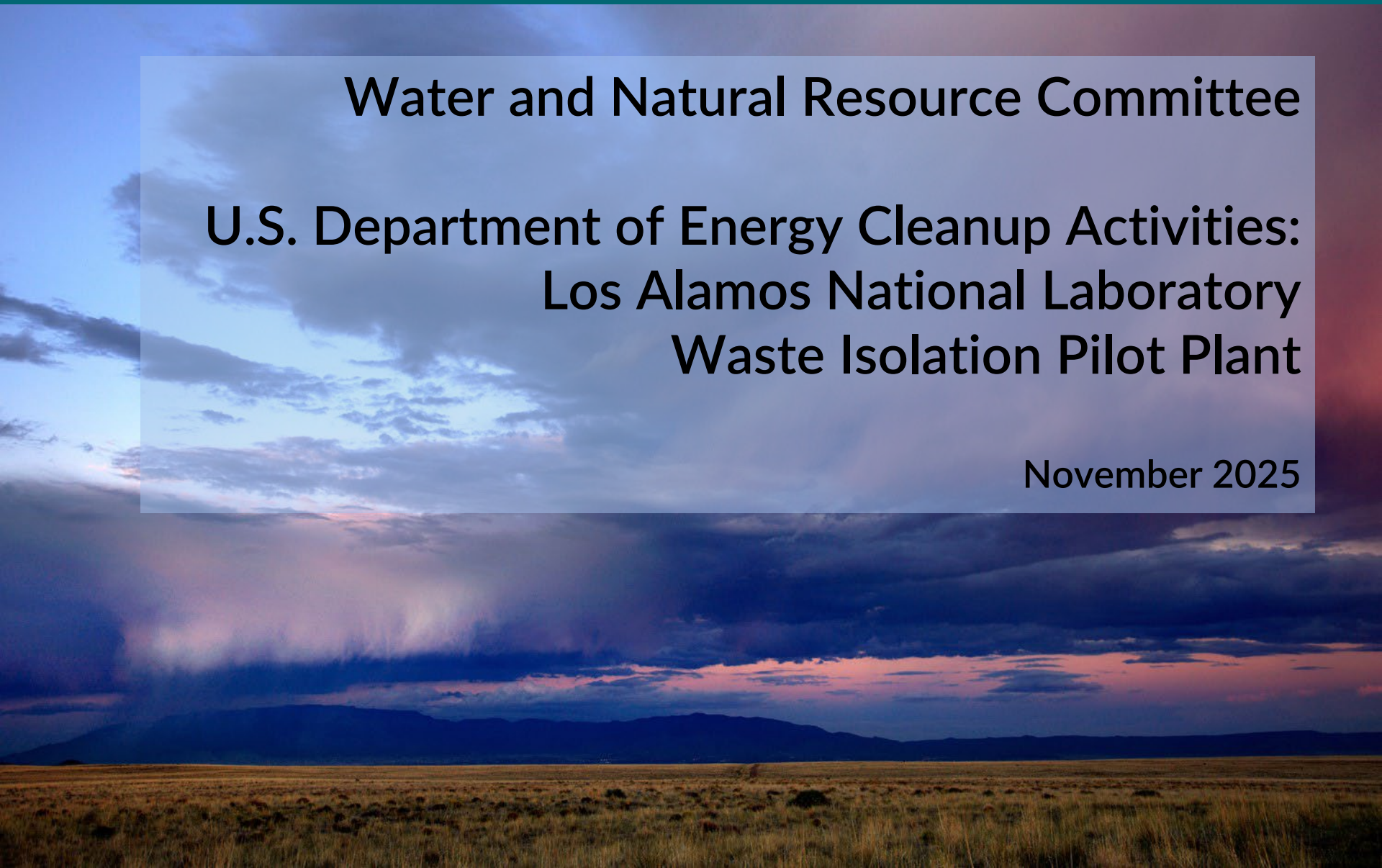
New Mexico Environment Department



Water and Natural Resource Committee

U.S. Department of Energy Cleanup Activities: Los Alamos National Laboratory Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

November 2025

Legacy Waste Cleanup

- Department of Energy
  - Los Alamos National Laboratory
  - August 2024 Compliance Order on Consent

- Department of Energy
  - Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
  - October Permit 2023

LANL Legacy Waste Cleanup

- Hexavalent Chromium Plume
  - Groundwater contamination plume in the regional aquifer
  - Located on the boundary of contamination with Pueblo de San Ildefonso
- Material Disposal Area C
  - Below ground pits and shafts of disposed waste
  - Awaiting a public hearing and final remedy selection
- Aggregate Area Cleanup
  - Soil remediation is occurring in multiple aggregate areas throughout the facility
  - Beginning at the boundaries, working inward to the facility

LANL Legacy Waste Cleanup

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Environment Department

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

November 13, 2025

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Chromium plume from Los Alamos National Laboratory migrates onto Pueblo de San Ildefonso land

LOS ALAMOS — A toxic chromium plume from Los Alamos National Laboratory has spread beyond lab boundaries onto Pueblo de San Ildefonso land for the first time, with contamination levels exceeding state groundwater standards, the New Mexico Environment Department announced today.

Recent groundwater sampling conducted by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) found hexavalent chromium, a toxic and carcinogenic substance, at levels ranging from 53 to 72.9 micrograms per liter (ug/l), depending on the depth sampled. The ground water standard is 50 ug/l.

Chromium Plume

- Remediation is occurring using an interim measures pump-and-treat system
  - Groundwater is pumped from the aquifer using extraction wells. Contamination is removed from the water through a treatment system; clean water is reinjected back into the aquifer.

- Concerning trends in contamination were identified by NMED and treatment system modifications required
  - Required the installation of a high-capacity injection well to satisfy concerns with injection in current locations
  - Required additional monitoring wells to evaluate impacts of injection on the contaminant migration
  - Temporarily cease injection

Chromium Plume

- DOE asserted injection was critical to maintaining hydraulic control over the plume and continued to request injection authorization
  - NMED provided proposals to allow partial injection operations with DOE agreement to comply with the path forward recommendations
  - DOE would not agree to proposed terms and used concentration trends along the periphery of the plume to justify injection re-authorization
- NMED and DOE participated in an Independent Technical Review to provide recommendations to the Parties' impasse

Chromium Plume

- Independent Technical Review team conclusions:
  - Supported NMED and the regulatory requirements that have been a point of conflict with DOE
  - Encouraged modification and expansion of the interim measures to ensure contamination does not uncontrollably migrate
  - Recommended modifying the groundwater model to reflect site conditions and for use in a predictive capacity
  - Supported the partial operation of injection in the southern end of the plume to facilitate extraction and remediation of contaminated groundwater

WIPP

Legacy Waste

Los Alamos National Laboratory Consent Order was renegotiated in August 2024

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant permit was re-issued in October 2023.

U.S. DOE continues to prioritize waste shipments and waste volume from Idaho National Labs.

CY25 (Through 10/6/2025)

Site	Total Shipments	Shipment Percentage	Volume Percentage
INL	231	66.5	76.27
LANL	**68**	**19.6**	**16.16**
ORNL	6	1.7	2.11
SRS	41	11.8	5.42
ANL	1	0.3	0.05
LLNL	0	0.00	0.00

CY24

Site	Total Shipments	Shipment Percentage	Volume Percentage
INL	341	72.55	84.64
LANL	**48**	**10.21**	**6.74**
ORNL	12	2.55	2.22
SRS	64	13.61	6.09
ANL	4	0.85	0.12
LLNL	1	0.21	0.19

LANL and WIPP Connection

New Mexicans are shouldering greater defense efforts while legacy waste remains a lessor priority by U.S. DOE/NNSA.

ENVIRONMENT

U.S. Dept. of Energy steps up plutonium pit manufacturing at Savannah River Site

The site is part of the nation's effort of "re-establishing capabilities retired after the Cold War," the national nuclear stockpile plan stated. And also, provide a home for another data center.

Jillian Magtoto
Savannah Morning News

Updated Oct. 9, 2025, 8:59 a.m. ET

And within the past month, the DOE has stepped its foot on the gas.

On Sept. 18, it announced the construction of new work fronts to accelerate the buildout of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) estimated to cost up to $25 billion and hoped for completion by 2030, its press release stated—two years ahead of schedule. A week later, the DOE announced it will host a public information session from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Nancy Carson Library on Oct. 23 before it submits its permit application for the SRPPF's hazardous waste storage.

Delayed pit production placing greater pressures on Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Summary

NMED has significant concerns regarding the U.S. DOE's and NNSA's compliance with regulatory requirements.

- NMED continues to pursue accelerated legacy waste cleanup activities.
- New chromium plume data indicates that contamination is present in groundwater beneath the Pueblo de San Ildefonso lands.
- NMED will continue to pursue compliance with the regulatory requirements, including modification of the treatment system and achieve plume control in the future.
- NMED continues to evaluate legal strategies to hold DOE and NNSA accountable.