

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

REPORT
to the
FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

March 2008
Legislative Council Service

2007 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Members

Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair
Sen. Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair
Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Sen. John T. L. Grubestic
Sen. Richard C. Martinez

Sen. William H. Payne
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Rep. Nick L. Salazar
Sen. William E. Sharer

Advisory Members

Sen. Ben D. Altamirano
Sen. Dianna J. Duran
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia

Rep. Ben Lujan
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

Work Plan

The committee will focus on:

1. the effect of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) layoffs, budget reductions or realignment on the economy in the affected areas;
2. LANL's environmental compliance record;
3. security issues; and
4. LANL-related technology transfer and business spinoff programs.

MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 15	Santa Fe
July 27	Santa Fe
August 27	Los Alamos (Joint meeting with RHMC)
October 11	Santa Fe
November 21	Santa Fe

Agendas and Minutes

TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
June 15, 2007
Room 321, State Capitol

Friday, June 15

- 10:00 a.m. **Call to Order**
 —Senator Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair
 —Representative Robert "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair
- 10:15 a.m. **2007 Interim Meeting Schedule and Scope of Work**
 —Gordon Meeks, Committee Staff
- 11:00 a.m. **Adjourn**

TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

July 27, 2007
Room 321, State Capitol

Friday, July 27

10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

—Representative Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair

—Senator Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Science Overview

—Terry Wallace, Principal Associate Director, Science, Technology and Engineering

11:30 a.m.

Lunch

1:00 p.m.

Technology Transfer for Business Development

—Duncan McBranch, Division Director, Technology Transfer

2:30 p.m.

LANL Overview, Update, Budget Status and Contingent Reductions in Force Impacts

—Mike Anastasio, Laboratory Director, LANL

4:00 p.m.

Adjourn

TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
JOINT MEETING
of the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
and
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE

August 27, 2007
Main Conference Center Room 203, Los Alamos Research Park
Los Alamos

Monday, August 27

- 10:00 a.m. **Call to Order**
—Representative Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Oversight Committee
—Senator Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair, LANL Oversight Committee
—Representative John A. Heaton, Chair, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee
- 10:05 a.m. **Environmental Program Overview and Update on Consent Order Compliance: LANL**
—Susan G. Stiger, Associate Director for Environmental Programs, LANL
- 11:00 a.m. **Update on Consent Order Compliance: New Mexico Department of Environment (NMED)**
—James Bearzi, Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau, NMED
- 12:00 noon **Working Lunch**
LANL Ground Water Protection Program
—Danny Katzman, Water Stewardship Program Manager, LANL
- 1:00 p.m. **Status of WIPP Shipments**
—Gerald O'Leary, Transuranic Waste Disposition Program Director, LANL
- 1:30 p.m. **Update on Consent Order Compliance: Sandia National Laboratories**
—Fran Nimick, Sandia National Laboratories
—James Bearzi, Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau, NMED
- 2:30 p.m. **Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit Update: LANL and Sandia National Laboratories**
—James Bearzi, Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau, NMED

3:30 p.m.

LANL and the Northern New Mexico Economy
—Joe Maestas, Mayor, City of Española

4:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Adjourn

Revised: October 4, 2007

TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
October 11, 2007
Room 321, State Capitol
Santa Fe

Thursday, October 11

- 10:00 a.m. **Call to Order**
—Senator Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair, Los Alamos National Laboratory Oversight Committee (LANLOC)
—Representative Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair, LANLOC
- Supercomputing Challenge**
—Bill Blackler, President, New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge
- 11:00 a.m. **Northern New Mexico Math and Science Academy**
—Carol Brown, Master Teacher, Northern New Mexico Math and Science Academy
—Lorenzo Gonzales, Master Teacher, Northern New Mexico Math and Science Academy
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. **Community Commitment Plan/Small Business Assistance Program**
—Lillian Montoya-Rael, Director, Community Programs Office, LANL
- 2:30 p.m. **Global Climate Modeling**
—Philip W. Jones, Deputy Group Leader, Fluid Dynamics, Theoretical Division, LANL
- 3:30 p.m. **Cybersecurity**
—Mike Fisk, Project Leader, Cybersecurity Program, LANL
- 4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

November 21, 2007
Room 321, State Capitol
Santa Fe

Wednesday November 21

10:00 a.m. **Call to Order**
—Representative Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair
—Senator Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair

LANL Budget Status and Possible Impacts
—Mike Anastasio, Laboratory Director

11:00 a.m. **Adjourn**

**MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING
of the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**June 15, 2007
Room 321, State Capitol
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Oversight Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 15, 2007, by Senator Phil A. Griego, co-chair.

Present

Sen. Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair
Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair
Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Sen. John T.L. Grubestic
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Sen. William H. Payne
Rep. Nick L. Salazar

Absent

Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Sen. William E. Sharer

Advisory Members

Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

Sen. Ben D. Altamirano
Sen. Dianna J. Duran
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia
Rep. Ben Lujan

Staff

Gordon Meeks
Liz Holmes

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Friday, June 15

Scope of Work, Meeting Schedule and Itinerary

The committee discussed the proposed scope of work suggested by the Legislative Council and the meeting schedule. The following scope of work and meeting schedule were adopted without dissent.

The committee will focus on:

1. the effect of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) layoffs, budget reductions or realignment on the economy in the affected areas;

2. LANL's environmental compliance record;
3. security issues; and
4. LANL-related technology transfer and business spinoff programs.

Meeting Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
July 27	Santa Fe
August 27	Los Alamos (joint meeting with RHMC)
October 11	Santa Fe

The committee adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

MINUTES
of the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
July 27, 2007
State Capitol, Room 321

The meeting of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Oversight Committee was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on Friday, July 27, 2007, by Senator Phil A. Griego, co-chair.

Present

Sen. Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair
Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair

Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Rep. Nick L. Salazar

Absent

Sen. John T.L. Grubestic
Sen. William H. Payne
Sen. William E. Sharer

Advisory Members

Sen. Dianna J. Duran
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia
Rep. Ben Lujan
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

Sen. Ben D. Altamirano

Staff

Gordon Meeks
Jacob Winowich

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Copies of all the handouts and written testimony are in the meeting file.

Friday, July 27

Los Alamos National Laboratory Science Overview

Dr. Terry Wallace, principal associate director of science, technology and engineering at LANL, told the committee that LANL is a science lab with more than 3,000 PhDs and 2,000 world class technicians and engineers working on "a science portfolio that ranges from alternative energy to health, from creating new technologies to detect weapons of mass destruction to exploring the distant reaches of the universe". He described the range of research subjects at LANL and products made possible by lab research, including space probes on Mars

that carried LANL instruments and engines, the chemical core of the airbags in all new cars, models for looking at the effects of global climate change and computer programs to simulate everything from the potential spread of avian flu to the optimization of spring river runoff in the Rio Grande Basin. He explained that LANL's science tradition is rooted in the Manhattan Project that was initiated in 1943 to develop an atomic bomb before the Nazis could. That research established a scientific culture at Los Alamos that has led to a long list of scientific accomplishments. He summarized the lab's core mission as: assuring the reliability of the nation's nuclear deterrent, protecting the nation from threats of mass destruction and solving emerging threats to the nation. He emphasized that Congress, in its funding of the lab, determines the lab's mission. Fifty-seven percent of the funding is related to weapons work, while about 20 percent is on threat reduction, 10 percent on basic sciences and seven percent on energy. But he clarified that the funding breakdown is misleading because the science underlying the weapons research often has a broader impact. For example, he said, the work to make nuclear weapons safer resulted in the discovery of gels that are the world's most effective isolators and will eventually reduce the cost of heating and cooling in future buildings. He concluded by saying the lab's research now touches on superconductivity, fuel cells, solar cells, climate modeling, aerosols, carbon sequestration, HIV modeling, "flu dip stick", protocells, radiation detectors, carbon nanotubes and roadrunner (high-performance) computing.

Questions and comments from the committee members addressed:

- defense mission as the primary mission of the lab and stockpile stewardship;
- partnerships between the lab and other institutions, including the state's universities;
- research on reducing the costs of energy;
- the "Roadrunner" supercomputer;
- security breaches at the laboratory;
- percentage of New Mexicans employed at the lab;
- the "dark skies" (particle physics) program;
- relationship to and effect on Native American lands and culture;
- sentiment in Congress to change LANL's mission;
- the effect of budget cuts on LANL's mission;
- research on port sensors and detection of weapons at airports;
- research on the vulnerability of communications systems;
- hydrogen energy research;
- public relations efforts to improve LANL's image;
- the chemical storage device for hydrogen power;
- disposition and intellectual property rights of information resulting from LANL research;
- response to contamination incidents and protocols for LANL's treatment of employees as a result of exposure to contaminants;
- fusion research;
- space elevator;
- methane as a greenhouse gas;
- recovery of particulate emissions;
- supercollider technologies;
- health physics research;

- integrated sensors;
- interdiction of a dirty bomb attack;
- undeveloped oil reserves and refinery capacities;
- the culture of noncompliance and arrogance; and
- atmospheric air circulation patterns and environmental controls.

Technology Transfer for Business Development

Duncan McBranch, Technology Transfer Division leader at LANL, told the committee that intellectual property is the lab's means to partner with industry to enhance science to serve national defense, strengthen the economy and foster job growth in New Mexico. He said that science at Los Alamos is multidisciplinary and revolutionary, not incremental. This is the source of ideas that change the world. He gave the example of the lab's work in modeling the spread of influenza. Los Alamos has created the world's most complete database of flu genetics, a \$5 million investment at the lab. He also referenced development by the lab of carbon-nanotube fibers, the camera on a microchip and the portable acoustic cytometer. Examples of LANL's partnerships with industry are the ones with Chevron, which is exploring ways to recover more oil and gas, and with Procter and Gamble, which is interested in research on phase stability, i.e., shelf life of products. He gave a brief overview of the intellectual property licensing process used at LANL. Technology transfer also involves visiting entrepreneurs, student internships, training and industrial fellows. LANL has invested \$15 million in its Technology Maturation Fund to facilitate technology transfer. Since 2002, he said, LANL has received 90 proposals and \$1.6 million has been invested in 37 recipients. This investment has resulted in 10 licenses, seven inventions and two new start-up businesses. He also described the makeup of the Technology Transfer Advisory Board and a \$1 million investment in the community commitment program, administered by the Northern New Mexico Regional Development Corporation.

Questions and comments made by the committee included:

- grants made from LANL's Venture Acceleration Fund;
- cooperation with the state Economic Development Department;
- accelerated licensing through intellectual property transfers;
- capital availability;
- leveraging of different resources through enterprise clusters;
- ability of scientists to develop entrepreneurial projects;
- patents and intellectual property ownership;
- range of frequencies of underground wireless technology being developed at Los Alamos;
- the number of business spinoffs that have stayed in New Mexico;
- measurements of success;
- hiring preferences;
- relations with state universities, especially New Mexico Highlands University;
- laboratory involvement in DNA technology; and
- technology transfer in Espanola and available clean rooms in Espanola.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved without opposition.

LANL Overview, Update, Budget Status and Contingent Reductions in Force Impacts

Mike Anastasio, laboratory director, summarized the first-year accomplishments of the Los Alamos National Security, LLC, LANL's contractor. He provided a handout to the committee that detailed safety, security, national defense, alternative energy, energy efficiencies, explosive research and development, quality control, accountability and environmental compliance. His handout, titled "Our First Year", stated that Los Alamos National Security, LLC, during its first year under the new contract, improved safety performance by 30 percent, reduced by 90 percent the number of facilities that hold strategic special nuclear materials, reestablished a multi-pit manufacturing capability, completed a six-year effort to deliver refurbished B61 bombs, provided input to the intelligence community regarding the North Korean nuclear test, recovered more than 15,000 radioactive sources from around the country, won five awards in R&D Magazine's annual R&D 100 competition, accelerated shipments of transuranic waste to WIPP, initiated the Northern New Mexico Connect Springboard Program and invested \$550,000 in regional economic development, among many other accomplishments.

Questions and comments of the committee addressed:

- pit production;
- the 2008 budget and the political environment;
- the nature of Congress' control and definition of LANL's mission;
- concerns about Congress' steps to redirect LANL to other missions besides national defense;
- the math and science academy donation to Northern New Mexico College expansion;
- consequences of funding cuts on northern New Mexico;
- reuse of LANL retired sites by the county and city of Los Alamos;
- improved communications and public relations;
- math and science education throughout the state;
- unfunded mandates by the Department of Energy to LANL;
- clear expression of concern to the congressional delegation regarding potential reductions in the LANL budget;
- LANL employment levels and demographic breakdowns of its employment;
- contract employees being replaced by out-of-state transfers;
- retraining programs for laid-off employees;
- pending class action lawsuit;
- contamination incident;
- compliments and expressions of appreciation;
- commendation for cleanup process;
- collaboration with small businesses in the district;
- LANL training assistance of small businesses wishing to become vendors to LANL;
- and
- gross receipts tax impact and where budget cuts will fall heaviest.

U.S. Representative Tom Udall was represented by Michele Jacquez-Ortiz and Sarah Cobb, who read a statement from him to the committee that expressed his appreciation for the work of the committee. He applauded the officials at LANL for providing a consistently open stream of communication with the LANL Oversight Committee. The statement summarized the

current congressional budgeting process for fiscal year 2008. Representative Udall's statement said he led the fight to protect the core mission of the lab, offering an amendment to restore \$192 million in budget cuts by the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. He stated that he is "confident that the final conference report between the House and the Senate will result in fully funding the core mission of the lab". His staff also provided copies of his floor statement on the budget to the committee.

The committee adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

**MINUTES
of the
JOINT MEETING
of
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
and
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

**August 27, 2007
Room 203, Main Conference Center, Los Alamos Research Park
Los Alamos**

The joint committee meeting of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Oversight Committee and the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee (RHMC) was called to order at 10:10 a.m. on August 27, 2007, by Representative John A. Heaton, RHMC chair.

Los Alamos National Laboratory Oversight Committee

Present

Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales,
Co-Chair
Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella

Absent

Sen. Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair
Sen. John T.L. Grubesic
Sen. William H. Payne
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Rep. Nick L. Salazar
Sen. William E. Sharer

Advisory Members

Sen. Dianna J. Duran
Rep. Ben Lujan
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

Sen. Ben D. Altamirano
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia

Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee

Present

Rep. John A. Heaton, Chair
Sen. Richard C. Martinez, Vice Chair
Sen. Vernon D. Asbill
Rep. William J. Gray
Sen. Gay G. Kernan
Sen Carroll H. Leavell
Rep. Antonio Lujan
Rep. Jim R. Trujillo
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

Absent

Sen. John T.L. Grubesic
Rep. Manuel G. Herrera

Advisory Members

Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Rep. Donald E. Bratton

Sen. Rod Adair
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia

Sen. John Pinto

Sen. William H. Payne
Rep. Nick L. Salazar
Rep. Jeff Steinborn
Rep. Peter Wirth

Staff

Gordon Meeks
Evan Blackstone
Aldis Philipbar

Guests

The guest list is in the original meeting file.

Monday, August 27

Committee Business

Representative Heaton began the meeting by welcoming everyone and having committee members and staff introduce themselves to the audience. Representative Heaton went on to explain the charge of the RHMC. Representative Gonzales then explained the role of the LANL Oversight Committee. Jim West, chair of the Los Alamos County Council, also welcomed the committee. Representative Heaton stated that LANL is the crown jewel of New Mexico and that the committee is very concerned about the current reputation of LANL. He said the legislature should do everything in its power to help develop a strategy to move LANL forward and to help change LANL's reputation.

Environmental Program Overview and Update on Consent Order Compliance: LANL

Susan G. Stiger, associate director for environmental programs at LANL, informed the committees that her primary responsibilities at LANL are waste management and cleanup activities at the lab. Ms. Stiger explained that she has been at LANL for four months and has previous experience at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Rocky Flats site, Hanford site and the Idaho National Laboratory. However, she stated, the complex and compact sites at LANL, coupled with an ongoing mission, make it a more difficult challenge. Ms. Stiger explained that the objective of LANL is to clean up the lab to levels defined by regulations and the federal consent order. She pointed out that the lab is working toward that objective by conducting its work safely and in compliance with requirements; by managing waste and program activities so that no new cleanup liabilities are created; and by improving efficiency and effectiveness.

Ms. Stiger went on to provide an assessment of LANL's cleanup program. She pointed out that the consent order provides a robust framework for cleanup at LANL. However, the consent order is young, and the lab is still investigating sites for cleanup. She stated that the lab can build upon successful cleanup experience elsewhere, especially in determining when enough is known to proceed with cleanup. Currently, LANL is at a critical transition between understanding the contamination and moving toward increased cleanup. Five to six decisions on cleanup will be presented for public review and comment in the next few years, and there will be a transition in the types of skills required both for subcontractors and LANL personnel. At that

point, Ms. Stiger said, progress will be more evident. Ms. Stiger emphasized that cleanup at LANL is unique because the aquifer is 800 to 1,000 feet below the surface at LANL and the hydrogeology is extremely complex. She stated that LANL continues to enhance its ground water monitoring and sampling programs. Finally, Ms. Stiger informed the committee that LANL's efforts to improve business practices will support an efficient cleanup program.

Ms. Stiger then updated the committees on LANL's progress in complying with the consent order. She reiterated that LANL's commitment is 100 percent compliance with the consent order. However, she stated that LANL's relationships with its stakeholders and regulators is not what it should be. Ms. Stiger pointed out that communicating effectively with the New Mexico Department of Environment (NMED) is essential to ensure that both the letter and the spirit of the consent order are met, and that more frequent and more constructive discussions are essential. She explained that LANL needs to improve transparency and credibility and work hard to achieve trust with stakeholders, regulators and members of the public. One way of achieving this goal is by increasing external reviews of LANL's programs and data. In the end, Ms. Stiger informed the committees, the ultimate measure is LANL's performance, and the lab has a commitment to execution and a willingness to tackle the challenges that arise. In conclusion, Ms. Stiger summarized some of the impending cleanup activities taking place next spring; cleanup of Material Disposal Area (MDA)-V and MDA-B; and cleanup of Area G (legacy sites).

Questions and comments included:

- where the material from cleanup activities is disposed;
- schedule of dates and the time line for the consent order;
- depth and complexity of the aquifer and how they affect cleanup;
- what components of the consent agreement have not been yet met and what is the status;
- Rocky Flats as the model for cleanup and required funding commitment;
- request for budgets from LANL from now to 2015 that would meet cleanup needs;
- how federal budget cuts are affecting abilities for cleanup;
- quantifying the levels of contamination;
- causes for missed compliance with the consent order;
- more effective characterization of the ground water parameters;
- Welden Springs, Missouri, as a cleanup project model;
- budgets for LANL and for NMED related to cleanup; and
- LANL's standards for determining the ultimate use of the sites that are now contaminated after they are cleaned up.

Update on Consent Order Compliance NMED

James Bearzi, Hazardous Waste Bureau chief for NMED, provided the committees with an update on LANL's compliance to date with the federal consent order. He began by describing the scope and history of the consent order. It began in 2002, when NMED issued a finding of imminent and substantial endangerment, and culminated in 2005, when the parties signed the final compliance order. Mr. Bearzi explained that the consent order represents a commitment to

New Mexico. Its scope is geographically huge because it covers the surface, subsurface and ground and surface waters on the lab's entire property; however, the order only addresses chemical constituents, not radionuclides, which are under federal government jurisdiction. The consent order also does not address operations, but does provide for investigations, cleanup and land transfers. Mr. Bearzi went on to explain that the order accelerates the pace of investigation and cleanup, prioritizes and focuses the activities, provides for reporting and investigation requirements, provides for adequate cleanup standards and provides schedules for cleanup and remedies. LANL currently has over 1,000 contaminated sites with varying degrees of contamination. Over 80 different pollutants have been discovered in the ground water, which is significant because the city and surrounding communities depend on the aquifer.

Mr. Bearzi described the schedule and document submittals required by the consent order and updated the committee on LANL's compliance record. He stated that LANL has a mixed record of success. The lab has done much to ramp up the pace of cleanup, it has reduced the number of unsolicited superfluous documents and has begun to agree that there are serious deficiencies in its ground water monitoring program. On the other hand, Mr. Bearzi pointed out, some work and documents submitted by LANL meet only minimum requirements or less and the lab is behind on remedy selections and has been subject to various enforcement actions. Furthermore, Mr. Bearzi stated, LANL's ground water monitoring network is woefully deficient. Mr. Bearzi acknowledged that LANL is behind on remedy selections primarily because it does not know enough about the groundwater contamination, and the complexity of the geology in the area makes cleanup difficult.

Finally, Mr. Bearzi reviewed the state's performance record with regard to the consent order's requirements. He stated that the NMED has not missed a notice date since October 2006 and NMED's technical staff is providing valuable guidance on LANL's ground water program and the remedy targets. The Legislative Finance Committee has given the NMED mixed reviews on its performance. Mr. Bearzi concluded by emphasizing that the state needs to conduct timely and appropriate enforcement, provide timely and technically sound feedback and needs to involve the public.

Questions and comments included:

- concerns about the state not meeting consent order deadlines and whether it has an adequate budget to meet its responsibilities;
- the effect of budget on staffing and the ability to meet work requirements with \$1.1 million and with 10 full-time employees (FTEs);
- a request for a scorecard that depicts work tasks and work accomplishments relative to a schedule;
- seismic issues relative to volcanism of the mountain; and
- a number of requests for information from activist groups.

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the minutes of the June 12, 2007 RHMC meeting and the minutes of the July 27, 2007 LANL Oversight Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

LANL Ground Water Protection Program

Danny Katzman, Water Stewardship Program manager at LANL, provided the committees with an overview of LANL's ground water and surface water monitoring project as well as an update on chromium contamination from LANL activities. Mr. Katzman informed the committees that the monitoring project is a comprehensive program implemented under the consent order. The project includes 82 shallow alluvial wells, 24 perched intermediate wells, 37 regional aquifer wells and 52 springs. The monitoring objectives of the project are protection of water supply wells, area-specific characterization and area-specific monitoring for corrective measures and facility operations.

Mr. Katzman provided the committees with a map of the locations of the wells and outlined some changes to the monitoring-well network. He explained that area-specific monitoring-well network evaluations are being conducted pursuant to an NMED requirement issued in April 2007. Mr. Katzman stated that the evaluations will result in recommendations to the NMED for upgrades to the monitoring-well network. The NMED is not in a good place to make high-quality decisions about cleanup unless the lab has its monitoring wells in good, reliable condition. These network upgrades, Mr. Katzman emphasized, are important critical paths toward timely completion of the consent order. Furthermore, LANL has set an aggressive schedule of improving the monitoring network over the next one and one-half years.

Mr. Katzman went on to give the committees an update on chromium contamination. He explained that chromium was used as a corrosion inhibitor in the power plant cooling towers in Sandia Canyon from 1956 to approximately 1972. It is estimated that a total of between 69,000 and 160,000 pounds of chromium was released through daily discharges into Sandia Canyon. LANL is currently working with Los Alamos County and the City of Santa Fe to ensure that adequate monitoring is being conducted at water supply wells. Mr. Katzman emphasized that, in September 2007, three major reports will be issued that hopefully will complete the investigative phase that will lead to long-term decisions about cleanup.

Questions and comments included:

- fiscal year 2008 LANL budget for ground water monitoring;
- the number of new wells being drilled each year and final number of new wells;
- the nature of drilling fluids used in drilling monitoring wells that may affect quality of ground water;
- the potential for using some of the same cleanup techniques in production wells that are used in the monitoring wells;
- explanation for the costs of drilling wells in the Jemez Mountain environment; and
- location of measurements of radionuclides downriver.

Mr. Katzman explained that there is a background level of chromium and that during the 1950s and 1960s, chromium was released from power plant cooling towers in Sandia Canyon. Between 70,000 pounds and 160,000 pounds were released into the canyon. He showed the locations and extent of contamination in wells and presented some graphics depicting the extent of contamination, maps, cross-sections and geologic formations affected by the releases. The

NMED requires a final investigation report of the extent and form of the chromium contamination and cleanup requirements by September 2008.

Questions:

- variables that affect the drilling cost of different kinds of wells;
- the status of the power plant that was the source of the chromium contamination;
- the speed of the movement of the contamination plume (a couple of meters per day of the ground water flow);
- how long before it reaches the Rio Grande;
- epidemiological studies of health effects in nearby communities;
- how long municipalities have been looking for chromium and the potential for chromium already to have moved through the ground water systems;
- loss of well bore integrity;
- cooperation and communication with the municipal authority and the public works people; and
- the distance between the known contamination and the drinking water production well.

Status of the Waste Isolation Pilot Program (WIPP) Shipments

Gerald O'Leary, Transuranic (TRU) Waste Disposition Program director at LANL, informed the committees that the mission of the program is to accelerate the retrieval, characterization and shipment of approximately 60,000 drum equivalents of TRU waste from LANL to WIPP. He reviewed the TRU waste operations at Area G and summarized LANL's TRU waste inventory. Mr. O'Leary also summarized the TRU waste disposition process and pointed out that LANL has transferred the prescreening process to Washington TRU Solutions. In 2007, Mr. O'Leary pointed out, 2,385 containers were shipped to WIPP as compared to 2,499 in all of 2006. Mr. O'Leary emphasized that the Carlsbad field office and Washington TRU Solutions' central characterization program have prioritized shipments of high-activity drums.

Mr. O'Leary said that LANL's major challenge is overcoming the 70 percent rejection rate during prescreening of drums from the Area G inventory, which requires remediation and repackaging. Consequently, LANL is enhancing its TRU waste packaging capabilities so that packages will not include prohibited items and will qualify for storage at WIPP. He went on to state that LANL will start shipments of remotely handled TRU waste in October 2007. In conclusion, Mr. O'Leary summarized that LANL's challenges include an aggressive completion schedule, the operational capability and availability of facilities and sequencing the retrieval, characterization, shipping and environmental restoration activities.

Questions:

- disposal of material after repackaging;
- what is stored at pad 10 in Area G;
- the nature of prohibited items in containers;
- the rate of shipments and an acceleration plan that takes into account WIPP's closure; and

- the need to ship 4,000 to 5,000 drums of TRU waste per year and the need for more repackaging facilities.

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Consent Order Status

Mr. Bearzi provided the committees with an update on SNL's compliance to date with a federal consent order. It began in 2002 when the NMED issued a finding of imminent and substantial endangerment and culminated in 2004 when the parties signed the final compliance order. Much like the consent order for LANL, the consent order for cleanup at SNL covers the surface, subsurface and ground and surface waters on the lab's entire property; however, the order only addresses chemical constituents, not radionuclides, which are under federal government jurisdiction. The consent order also does not address operations, but does provide for investigations and cleanup. Mr. Bearzi reported that SNL is nearing the end of its cleanup work, and there are four remaining ground water sites and one mixed waste landfill site. Mr. Bearzi highlighted SNL's time line under the order and explained the length of time required for decisions and implementation. He also pointed out how much delay is inherent in the process of these cleanups and the demands they place on state resources. He stated that SNL is doing well, but that progress continues to be problematic, primarily due to SNL's continued refusal to implement a LANL-style voluntary fee agreement to support the NMED staff hours dedicated to SNL. In addition, Mr. Bearzi noted, his bureau has allocated significant staff time to respond to an unusual number of requests for information from activist groups.

Fran Nimick, deputy director for Center 6700 at SNL, provided the committees with an update on SNL's consent order compliance. With regard to solid waste management units and areas of concern, Mr. Nimick stated that the mixed waste landfill is the only remaining site. Two of three corrective measure evaluation plans for ground water areas are in review at the NMED, and all required monitoring and reporting for perchlorate screening of ground water is on schedule or completed. Only four deliverables remain under the order, and all other deliverables have been submitted on or ahead of schedule.

Questions and comments included:

- an explanation for delays by the NMED in responding to SNL's response to a notice of disapproval;
- a budget for the NMED to oversee SNL's cleanup;
- problems caused by turnover of key staff;
- transfer of money from other cleanup efforts after closure to needed projects elsewhere;
- refutable evidence of ground water contamination for permitted facilities in Bernalillo County; and
- reaching closure of public hearings and the need for decisions based on science.

Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit Update

Mr. Bearzi provided the committees with an update on the RCRA permits and permitting process for LANL and SNL. New draft permits have been released for public comment, and Mr. Bearzi delivered two copies to DOE and LANL officials in front of the committees. He explained the RCRA law and the role of the states under the program. RCRA addresses disposal

of hazardous waste, and it defines technical standards for treatment of hazardous waste, storage and disposal. Under the RCRA permitting process, the proper state authority issues a draft permit, there is a public hearing and the proper state authority then issues a final permit. Mr. Bearzi pointed out that the NMED's permitting process requires the NMED to meet with stakeholders that are in opposition to the permit and to try to negotiate and revise the permit accordingly. The RCRA permitting process includes a public comment period on a draft permit, meeting with stakeholders, issuing a revised draft permit for public comment, conducting a public hearing on a narrow scope of issues and issuing a final permit.

Mr. Bearzi went on to point out that RCRA applies to LANL and SNL because they generate hazardous waste. LANL and SNL activities covered by RCRA include hazardous waste generation, storage, treatment, disposal, corrective action and public participation. Mr. Bearzi explained that RCRA's permitting goals include sound waste management practices, integration with consent orders and clear schedules. Finally, Victoria George, Environmental Protection Division leader at LANL, informed the committee that LANL is working with the NMED to ensure it receives all necessary information for the RCRA permit and that LANL is just beginning evaluation of the draft permit.

Questions and comments included:

- the status of Cannon, Holloman and Kirtland Air Force bases under RCRA;
- how RCRA permitting has changed over the years; and
- how states vary in their administration of RCRA.

On a motion made by Representative Heaton, seconded and unanimously approved, the committees directed staff to draft a letter on behalf of the committees to DOE, New Mexico's congressional delegation and the U.S. secretary of energy, requesting them to provide LANL \$15 million in fiscal year 2008 and \$15 million in fiscal year 2009 to fund ground water monitoring at LANL.

LANL and Northern New Mexico's Economy

Joseph Maestas, mayor of Espanola, explained to the committees how LANL budget cuts as proposed in the U.S. House of Representatives version of the federal budget will affect LANL's community commitment plan. He stated that the City of Espanola, and all of northern New Mexico, are concerned about the budget cuts and that the city opposes the budget cuts. Mayor Maestas went on to call for a more gradual transition of LANL's mission in order to help mitigate job cuts. He also called for the governor and state legislature to cooperate with the cities and communities affected by the cuts in order to mitigate their effects. Mayor Maestas proposed a partnership between New Mexico's local governments, THINK New Mexico and state and federal governments to address the negative effects of LANL budget cuts on communities in northern New Mexico.

Questions and comments included:

- compliments to the mayor and to LANL;
- a need for regional collaboration;
- the budget for LANL in 1990 compared to the current proposed budget;

- the need to reduce northern New Mexico's reliance on LANL for its economy;
- gross receipts tax paid by LANL and exemptions for LANL's out-of-state contracts;
and
- the need for cooperation and communication among the local communities.

There being no further business, the committees adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

**MINUTES
of the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**October 11, 2007
Room 321, State Capitol
Santa Fe**

The meeting of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Oversight Committee was called to order at 10:08 a.m. on Thursday, October 11, 2007, by Senator Phil A. Griego, co-chair.

Present

Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair
Sen. Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair
Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Rep. Nick L. Salazar

Absent

Sen. John T.L. Grubestic
Sen. William H. Payne
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Sen. William E. Sharer

Advisory Members

Sen. Dianna J. Duran
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia
Rep. Ben Lujan
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

Sen. Ben D. Altamirano

Staff

Gordon Meeks
Jacob Winowich

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Copies of all the handouts and written testimony are in the meeting file.

Thursday, October 11

Members of the committee expressed concern about the impending budget cuts LANL is facing and consequences to the local employment base and economy. Members suggested another meeting be scheduled in November to hear and update the budget before Congress (which was approved by the Legislative Council). That meeting is set for November 21.

Supercomputing Challenge

Bill Blacker, president of the board of directors of the Supercomputing Challenge Program, and David Kratzer, program director, explained to the committee that supercomputing

is the use of powerful computers to analyze problems that have a large number of variables and a complex output. They said that supercomputing capabilities are needed for computations wherein the problems was too large for conventional computing; where computations are expensive, perhaps dangerous, time-consuming and computationally intense; and where there is widespread usefulness of problem-solving in academic research or business. They gave examples of Fireton Company's tire design and dairy operations in eastern New Mexico. The Supercomputing Challenge is a year-long program in which teams of one to five students from grades 6-12 are eligible to use LANL's supercomputer on projects developed by those students. More than \$93,000 was awarded in April 2007, \$80,000 of which was provided by LANL's Computer, Computational and Statistics Services Division and the balance coming from state universities and the business community. The program includes an intensive two-week teacher education seminar to enable teachers to support the challenge teams. They told the committee that the Supercomputing Challenge began in 1990 and has received funding over the past four years ranging between \$40,000 and \$80,000. Over the years, enrollment in the program has decreased, but attrition is also lower and the quality of the projects has improved. The program has an ambitious goal of having one student team in every middle and high school statewide. Concerns are that LANL's budget cuts by Congress will prevent this goal from being achieved.

Questions and issues raised by the committee dealt with:

- the reduced number of students participating in the program;
- need for a full-time executive director;
- rate of completion of projects by teams (76%);
- recruitment strategies and the status of the summer teacher institute;
- the average size of the teams;
- the Public Education Department's (PED) publication of the final reports;
- New Mexico Tech as the fiscal agent;
- the \$80,000 budget for fiscal year 2008;
- participation of Española schools;
- the level of Hispanic participation;
- the need to start science education at the kindergarten level;
- teacher licensing;
- graduates of the program obtaining employment with national laboratories; and
- the relationship with the LANL Foundation.

The committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting without opposition.

Math and Science Academy

Carol Brown and Lorenzo Gonzales gave a progress report on the Math and Science Academy. LANL pays the salaries of three master teachers, and the state legislature matches that with stipends for teachers to attend a summer institute for their training to become master math and science teachers. The summer institute costs \$100 per day for three weeks. The PED allows \$20.00 per hour for teachers to participate in after-school studies. There are also on-line group discussions. The teachers are also asked to develop a portfolio, which may take four hours a month. There are also meetings in December and June among the participating teachers from all districts to receive continuing education and cross-training. There is also a one-semester

"celebration of learning" program in which the teachers participating may be paid. Some businesses have also been contributing funds to the program. Teachers who complete the approved program may receive a master's of arts degree in teaching from New Mexico State University. There are currently 42 first-year teachers, 29 second-year teachers, 16 third-year teachers and 43 veterans of the program, for a total of 131 teachers that have participated in the Math and Science Academy. Student performance among Math and Science Academy graduates has been enhanced significantly, according to student scores on standardized tests, they told the committee.

Questions and comments from the committee addressed:

- teachers' needs to train their colleagues;
- universities partnering with the Math and Science Academy;
- participation with Northern New Mexico Community College;
- incentives by school districts for teachers to participate;
- shortage of math teachers;
- schools in the Española district that participate in the program;
- teachers' energy levels;
- parent support and participation;
- support of school district administrations; and
- recruitment strategies.

Community Commitment Plan and Small Business Assistance Program

Lillian Montoya-Rael, outgoing director of the Community Commitment Plan, introduced Johnny Martinez, acting director, and Mary Ann Johnson and Carol Rutin. Ms. Montoya-Rael described the regional community service area of the Community Commitment Plan. She told the committee that Los Alamos National Security (LANS), LLC, will make additional community investments in education, economic development and workplace-giving and will build partnerships with regional constituencies, balancing listening and action. In addition to previous community programs under the old contract, LANS, under the new contract, will add commitments to education investments, economic development, community-giving and in-kind community investments. She told the committee that LANS had matched employee contributions to United Way dollar-for-dollar for a total of \$1.5 million. LANL has promoted volunteerism at the lab resulting in more than 7,600 hours of volunteered time in the community. More than 20,000 pounds of food was donated to 400 families in the region by employees. She also described donations to a soup kitchen and a school-supply drive. In education investments, she told the committee that LANS matched employee donations for scholarships dollar-for-dollar to total more than \$400,000, including \$250,000 for educational outreach, \$100,000 for the Math and Science Academy and the lab's Bradbury Science Museum's Science on Wheels program, \$100,000 in the Regional Quality Center and \$214,000 for 12 scholarships at Northern New Mexico Community College.

She went on to itemize LANS investments in economic development that included \$400,000 to foster entrepreneurship; \$350,000 for support of regional businesses based on LANL technology spinoffs and 30 projects that LANL personnel are participating in under the Sandia small business tax credit program; and \$250,000 to support the Regional Development

Corporation's economic development program. She closed her presentation by telling the committee that LANL's total investments under its Community Commitment Plan have increased from almost \$1.4 million in 2006 to more than \$6 million in 2007.

Questions and comments addressed:

- the amount committed to the Supercomputer Challenge;
- the total value of scholarships supported by LANL;
- examples of technical assistance provided by LANL to New Mexico enterprises;
- assistance to community events;
- United Way's investments;
- the effects of federal budget cuts on the Community Commitment Plan;
- the location of venture acceleration companies;
- a team approach to retaining companies in New Mexico that receive assistance from LANL;
- wildfire modeling in Angel Fire;
- the stage of business of recipient enterprises; and
- the extent of cooperation with small business development centers.

Global Climate Modeling

Phil Jones, project leader, Climate, Ocean and Sea Ice Modeling Project, LANL, told the committee that the earth's poles are warming at twice the rate of warming of the rest of the planet. The models at first predicted that the Greenland ice sheet would take 1,000 years to melt, but apparently this is happening much faster. The implications are for a rise in sea level amounting to seven kilometers, which would put half of the state of Florida under the sea. He told the committee that the mission of his project is to develop the best ocean/ice models to support the Department of Energy's Climate Change Research Division. Factors that are used in the models include data on biogeochemistry, ocean currents and circulation, sea ice thermodynamics, ice sheet melting and sea levels. He concluded that the modeling effort needs higher resolution global models and improved understanding of ground water and vegetation responses.

Questions from the committee addressed:

- the need for a layman's presentation on this science;
- the potential effect of sea level rise;
- the lifetime of greenhouse gases overshadowing the cancellation effect of aerosols;
- semi-desert areas becoming drier, higher latitudes getting wetter and the need for better regional models;
- relationship of global warming to tsunamis;
- one degree warming over 100 years is the current rate of warming;
- the oceans' effects on climate;
- that this information is more important than the minor security breaches at LANL; and
- putting the presentation data online.

Casey Parr was recognized from the audience and told the committee that he wants to sell to LANL secure data server technology, but the lab has not agreed to purchase his product, nor has he been able to get the state to purchase it. He asked the committee to help him market his product.

Cybersecurity

Alex Kent, project leader of the Cybersecurity Program at LANL, told the committee that a substantial physical event is possible through a cyber-attack. He said that the current situation "represents a systemic vulnerability, and efforts to implement security incrementally cannot keep up. It will take a dramatic and unprecedented action to successfully change the situation". He described the scale of the challenge by telling the committee that LANL receives 2 million legitimate emails a month and 8 million spam messages a month. The lab experiences 20 million "abnormal" events each month, of which 500 are investigated. He said more than 600,000 cybersystems connect to LANL through the internet each month from every interconnected country.

Questions and comments included:

- sources of cyber-attacks;
- criteria for triggering defense measures against potential cyber-attacks;
- blocking of email being sent from LANL to outside recipients;
- super vault-like room (cyber glove-box process allows manipulation of data but prevents retrieval of data);
- need for the state to establish a classification system for confidential information; and
- existing confidentiality policies of the state.

The committee adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

**MINUTES
of the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**November 21, 2007
Room 321, State Capitol**

The meeting of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Oversight Committee was called to order at 10:12 a.m. on Wednesday, November 21, 2007, by Senator Phil A. Griego, co-chair.

Present

Sen. Phil A. Griego, Co-Chair
Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chair
Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Rep. Nick L. Salazar

Absent

Sen. John T.L. Grubestic
Sen. William H. Payne
Sen. William E. Sharer

Advisory Members

Rep. Ben Lujan
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

Sen. Ben D. Altamirano
Sen. Dianna J. Duran
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia

Staff

Gordon Meeks

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Copies of all the handouts and written testimony are in the meeting file.

Wednesday, November 21

Senator Griego opened the meeting by commenting on Congress' action on the laboratory's budget and mission and the role of the interim committee.

The committee approved the October minutes.

LANL Budget Status and Possible Impacts

Laboratory Director Michael Anastasio told the committee that, in September, when he addressed the committee, LANL would be planning for contingencies. The general plan on work force restructuring began then, he said. The specific plan was submitted to the Department of Energy (DOE) this month, he informed the committee. The DOE had not yet approved that plan.

The drivers causing this action are:

1. a flat budget for five years required LANL to absorb costs caused by inflation;
2. new expenses, such as the state's gross receipts tax, had to be absorbed, totalling \$175 million;
3. not much room for further belt-tightening; and
4. Congress passed a continuing resolution for the 2008 fiscal year's budget at the 2007 fiscal year level.

He said that for the past two years, LANL has had a very low turnover among staff, with only 107 leaving the lab last year compared to the yearly average of 400. As a consequence, he said, the only option for LANL at this point is to restructure the work force. He told the committee that LANL's proposed plan for accomplishing this complies with the Defense Authorization Act, Section 3161. The restructuring will be in these phases:

1. Offers will be made to staff for a self-selection process to separate from employment, which will minimize the need for involuntary dismissal. The severance package being offered will provide a severance payment based on years of service at the lab and will include continuing medical insurance. Some "critical-function" job classifications for the core mission of the lab will be excluded. The critical function staffing amounts to about seven percent of LANL employment. These critical-function employees are also protected from any involuntary reductions in staff. Contract employees are also excluded from the self-selection process. The LANL staff have four weeks to respond to this offer. The objective is to reduce the total staff by 500 to 700 employees.

2. Phase two will be an involuntary reduction in staff, if the voluntary phase does not generate enough respondents. [It was announced in January 2008 that enough responded to the voluntary phase (self-selection process) to meet LANL needs for reduction in staff, and, therefore, there were no involuntary separations.]

The director told the committee that LANL would continue to maintain as much public outreach as possible during this period. He said he has met with four pueblo governors, mayors and county commissioners in the affected communities and with Governor Richardson's staff to brief them on the situation and planned reduction in the work force. He said he is committed to continuing communication to reduce speculation and keep the facts as they are known in front of the community. He said LANL and the community are in a shared-fate relationship.

Questions and issues raised by the committee dealt with:

- anticipated participation level in Phase 1 (500-700 employees—570 eventually separated without involuntary reductions);

- components of the severance package;
- terms for "double dippers" (600 employees who had retired from LANL and returned to work as contractors);
- criteria for identifying "critical functions";
- number of the 600 "double dippers" who are considered "critical function" employees;
- the legality of LANL encouraging certain individuals to accept early separation [would subject it to a lawsuit];
- the DOE's approval process;
- the rate of inflation effect on LANL budget and employment practices;
- allowance for training and transfers of existing employees from less important jobs to more critical jobs;
- the effect of budget cuts on Sandia National Laboratories and different sources of revenues and mix of revenues between the two laboratories [significantly, more of LANL's budget is from the core nuclear weapons program than Sandia's];
- the basis of the estimated 500 to 700 staff reductions and potential for more if Congress reduces the requested budget;
- trade-offs of applying the severance package to retirement programs;
- the average pay of separating work force and anticipated savings for the lab (\$120,000/\$100,000,000) compared to the total LANL budget (\$2 billion);
- the effect on environmental cleanup of the budget cuts;
- Speaker Lujan's correspondence to congressional leaders on behalf of LANL;
- the average age of double dippers;
- eligibility of discharged or voluntarily separated employees for unemployment insurance;
- potential diversification of LANL revenues [depends on Congress];
- options to soften the impact on communities;

- the reduction in gross receipts liability of the reduced budget;
- the fee to the management company, Los Alamos National Security, LLC, (\$75,000,000-\$10,000,000 less than the last contractor);
- actions to absorb additional costs;
- total LANL staff (8,200 direct employees, 12,000 total, including contract employees and post-doctorate temporary staff);
- the number of staff eligible for retirement;
- the criteria or last reductions in force;
- the rationale for 750 reductions;
- the details of severance package; and
- appreciation to the director and compliments for openness.

Workforce Solutions Department Secretary Betty Sparrow-Dorris introduced herself to the committee and told the committee that the administration is reviewing the state's unemployment compensation rules to accommodate departing LANL employees.

Questions addressed to Secretary Sparrow-Dorris included:

- the source of severance packages for LANL employees;
- overtime that might be required of remaining employees to cover the responsibilities of departing employees and state rules that might be applicable;
- determination of voluntariness or involuntariness; and
- assistance to departing employees in obtaining other employment.

The committee adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

After adjournment, Economic Development Department Secretary Fred Mondragon addressed the remaining members in the room regarding Section 3161 funds. He announced he would have a public meeting to provide information to the community on December 11, 2007 about state re-employment assistance and out-placement services that will be available to departing LANL employees.