

**Status of
Los Alamos National Laboratory Legacy Waste
and
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Permit**

RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE

June 12, 2012

Presented by the
New Mexico Environment Department

LANL Legacy Waste

- November 16, 2011 Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee
 - Accomplishments under the March 1, 2005 Consent Order
- 2011 Las Conchas Wildfire
 - Burned more than 150,000 acres threatening LANL
 - One-acre spot fire on lab property quickly extinguished
- Governor Martinez tasked NMED to work with DOE and make priority
 - Disposal of above-ground transuranic (TRU) legacy waste at Technical Area (TA) 54 – Area G
 - Protection of regional water resources
 - Groundwater and surface water sources of drinking water

LANL Legacy Waste

- NMED and DOE discussions to address priorities
 - January 5, 2012 Framework Agreement
- Framework Agreement
 - Non-binding agreement
 - How cleanup of TRU waste will move forward
 - 3,706 cubic meters of above-ground TRU waste removed by June 14, 2014
 - Newly generated TRU waste removed by December 31, 2014
 - Develop plan for below grade by December 2012
 - Continued groundwater and surface water monitoring
 - Quarterly reports

LANL Legacy Waste

TRU Volume Removed			FY12 – 2 nd Quarter			Projections for 3rd Quarter		
Shipment * (as of 04/01/2012)		2014 Goal	Q2 Actual to Date	Cumulative Actual to Date	% Complete	End of 3 rd Qtr.	Cumulative by End of Qtr.	Cum. % Complete
3,706 TRU Campaign	Volume (m³)	3706.0	77.8	245.5	6.6%	270.7	516.2	14%
	Drum Equivalents	17817.3	374.0	1180.1		1301.4	2481.6	
	Radioactivity (PE Ci)	41510.7	3742.7	9337.3	22%	6362.8	15700.1	38%

LANL Legacy Waste

- What about the Consent Order?
 - Acknowledgment that completion of Consent Order activities by December 2015 cannot be met
 - Inadequate funding
 - Technical challenges
 - Complex geology
 - Waste volumes
 - LANL desires to renegotiate Consent Order schedule
 - NMED will consider based on demonstration/commitment to remove TRU waste

LANL Legacy Waste

- Consent Order
 - Continue groundwater & surface water monitoring
 - Reallocate funding to TRU waste removal
 - Extension of Consent Order submittals
 - NMED granted 33 extensions as of April 30, 2012
 - 22 extensions granted for two-year period
 - Others extended from 1 to 11 months



LANL Legacy Waste

- TA-63 Transuranic Waste Management Facility
 - August 18, 2011 Permit Modification submitted
 - Manage newly generated TRU waste once TA-54 Area G is closed
 - Consolidate waste management operations into a smaller area
 - October 24, 2011 Class 3 permit determination
 - February 1, 2012 Administrative Completeness Determination
 - May 24, 2012 Disapproval on technical issues
 - NMED is working closely with LANL

LANL Legacy Waste

- Framework Agreement

http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/documents/LANL_Framework_Agreement.pdf

- LANL 3,706 TRU Campaign Status Report

http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/lanlperm.html#TRU_Quarterly_Reports

- LANL Consent Order Extensions

http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/documents/LANL_Extensions_4-30-2012.pdf



WIPP Permit

- Permit Activities

- May 28, 2009 NMED received Renewal Application
- September 25, 2009 WIPP submitted Amended Renewal Application
- November 25, 2009 Administrative Completeness Determination
- August 9 & 10, 2010 Public Hearing
- November 30, 2010 NMED Secretary issues Permit
- December 30, 2010 Permit became effective

WIPP Permit

Emplaced Waste (July 1, 2011 through June 4, 2012)		
Site	Shipments	Volume Emplaced (m ³)
Idaho Nat'l Labs	432	3,188.60
Savannah River Site	144	1,405.68
Los Alamos Nat'l Lab	184	1,150.63
Hanford	18	193.20
Oak Ridge Nat'l Lab	12	60.48
Argonne Nat'l Labs	26	9.27
Sandia Nat'l Lab/NM	8	4.62
BAPL	5	3.15
Totals	829	6,015.63



WIPP Permit

- Permit Modifications
 - Class 1 Permit Modifications
 - 6 submittals
 - Class 2 Permit Modification
 - October 3, 2011 - Mine Ventilation, Shielded Containers, Groundwater Detection Monitoring Program Plan
 - October 7, 2011 NMED Approval of Temporary Authorization for Mine Ventilation (allow entry into RH rooms without required minimum airflow to adjust ventilation regulators)
 - December 28, 2011 - Extension issued
 - January 31, 2012 - Mine Ventilation and Groundwater Detection Monitoring Program Plan (issued), Shielded Containers (denied)



WIPP Permit

- Nine audit and surveillance activities conducted this fiscal year
- Six audit reports reviewed and approved by NMED
- Five Notifications received by NMED
- Other Activities
 - April 20, 2012- DOE awards management contract for WIPP
 - Contract starts October 1, 2012
 - May 15, 2012- NMED met with the WIPP to discuss proposed permit modification requests
 - Class 2 modification – Shielded Containers
 - Stakeholder Pre-meeting June 7 in Albuquerque
 - Submit to NMED late June 2012
 - Class 2 and 3 modifications proposed in the coming months

WIPP Permit

- WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit
 - <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp/index.html>
- Department of Energy
 - <http://www.wipp.energy.gov/>
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/wipp/>

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