

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

REPORT
to the
FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE,
FIRST SESSION

December, 2004
Legislative Council Service
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December 9, 2004

The Los Alamos national laboratory oversight committee is pleased to submit its final report to the forty-seventh legislature, first session.

The committee wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the Los Alamos national laboratory and the national nuclear security administration of the department of energy in keeping the committee apprised of activities at the lab and of the process of re-letting the management contract for the lab. This year has been a challenging one for the lab and the university of California, and the committee appreciates efforts made by lab management to keep the committee informed.

If you have any questions concerning this report or the work of the committee, please feel free to talk to us or to other members of the committee.

Yours very truly,

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales
Co-chairman (Representative, District 42)

Phil A. Griego
Co-chairman (Senator, District 39)

Background of Committee

The Los Alamos national laboratory oversight committee was originally created by the legislative council in 2002 in response to Senate Joint Memorial 84 of that year. That memorial called for the creation of a citizen advisory committee to assist the oversight committee in its work. In 2003, the legislative council re-created the committee in response to House Joint Memorial 8, but decided not to reconstitute the advisory committee. Although a memorial to continue the committee was not introduced in the 2004 session, the legislative council appointed the committee under its own authority at its May 2004 meeting.

Committee Membership

Members of the committee this year were:

Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Co-Chairman
Sen. Phil A. Griego, Co-Chairman
Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Sen. Manny M. Aragon¹
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Rep. Nick L. Salazar
Sen. William E. Sharer

Advisory members were:

Rep. Ben Lujan
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Sen. William H. Payne
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

Work Plan and Budget

For the 2004 interim, the committee planned to receive updates and progress reports on issues covered over the past two years and to hear testimony from the federal department of energy on its plans for the national laboratories in New Mexico. The work plan reflected the committee's continuing interest in education and the need to better align secondary and post-

¹ Senator Aragon resigned from the senate effective July 1, 2004 to take the presidency of New Mexico highlands university.

secondary curricula with LANL employment needs. The committee also planned to continue its study of employment-related issues that remained outstanding from past interims. The committee was funded at \$9,474 and spent \$3,985. The cost for advisory members was \$1,297.

Meetings of the Committee

The committee held five meetings during the interim: June 4, July 12, September 17, October 15 and November 12. Meetings were held in Santa Fe, except the September meeting, which was held in Los Alamos in a joint meeting with the information technology oversight committee.

At its July meeting, the committee began the interim with a report from lab director Pete Nanos. While he pointed to many improvements at LANL, he also reported on an incident involving misplaced classified media that would lead to the complete shutdown of the lab a few days after his testimony. The committee also heard from Tyler Przybylek, general counsel and chief operating officer of the national nuclear security administration, the three-year-old office in the department of energy that is responsible for operations at the national laboratories.

Because of the shutdown at LANL, the committee's scheduled August meeting was canceled. Its September meeting was held jointly in Los Alamos with the information technology oversight committee. The committees received a briefing from Admiral Nanos on measures taken at the lab to rectify security breaches. The remainder of the meeting centered on state and federal homeland security programs and initiatives.

Much of the October agenda revolved around LANL workforce issues, with testimony from the LANL management and two LANL whistleblowers. Also on the agenda were presentations on LANL's community outreach program and its economic development and technology transfer efforts.

In November, the committee focused on education, hearing about LANL education initiatives and hosting an education roundtable discussion with LANL, Sandia national laboratories and secondary and post-secondary school representatives.

Appendix

Copies of the committee's work plan and budget, agendas and minutes are appended to this report.