



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Telephone (505) 428-2500
Fax (505) 428-2567
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FOR THE DRAFT ORDER ON CONSENT BETWEEN THE NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY,
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 1, 2004**

1. What is the draft Order on Consent?

The draft Order on Consent documents an agreement between the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the University of California (UC) that directs laboratory-wide investigation and cleanup at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) facility. The draft Order on Consent contains thirteen (13) sections that include an introduction, findings of fact and conclusions of law, general provisions, details for specific site investigations at the facility, the investigation of newly identified contaminated sites and releases, the corrective action process, cleanup levels, investigation methods and procedures, requirements for drilling and groundwater monitoring well installation, reporting requirements, and schedules for implementation.

2. How long is the public comment period?

The public comment period is 30 days long, beginning on Wednesday, September 1, 2004, and ending on Friday, October 1, 2004, at 5:00 p.m.

3. Will the NMED hold a public meeting to explain the Order on Consent?

A public informational meeting will be held in Pojoaque, New Mexico, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Cities of Gold Hotel at 10-A Cities of Gold Road, on Wednesday, September 8, 2004. The meeting will provide information as to the general content and organization of the draft Order on Consent. The public will be afforded an opportunity to ask questions about the draft Order on Consent, and members of the public may submit written comments at that time.

4. How can I comment on the Order?

Written and electronic mail (e-mail) comments will be accepted by the NMED and must be received no later than October 1, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at the following addresses:

James P. Bearzi, Bureau Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Or, e-mail: hazardous_waste_comment@nmenv.state.nm.us
Ref: LANL Order on Consent

Although oral comments and questions are part of the informational meeting, oral comments and questions will not be recorded or placed into the administrative record. The NMED will respond formally to written and e-mail comments only. The comments and their responses will be placed in the administrative record.

5. What will happen to my written comments if they are received by the New Mexico Environment Department after the deadline?

Only written and e-mail comments received by the NMED by Friday, October 1, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. will be considered.

6. Can I submit comments anonymously?

The NMED will only consider comments containing the commentator's name and address. Comments submitted anonymously will not be considered.

7. What is the Administrative Record?

The Administrative Record includes the draft Order on Consent, a Fact Sheet, a public notice, historical documentation of laboratory operations, investigation and monitoring data, investigation reports, related correspondence, and other documents pertaining to the LANL facility.

8. How can I review the Administrative Record for the LANL facility?

The documents that comprise the Administrative Record may be viewed during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) at the following address:

New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
(505) 428-2500

9. Other than the Hazardous Waste Bureau, where else can I review the Order?

The text of the draft Order on Consent, Fact Sheet, and Public Notice are also available at the LANL Community Relations Reading Room, 1619 Central Avenue, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545 (505) 665-4400, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The public may also view these documents on the Department web page at:

<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/lanlperm.html> under Order on Consent

10. How can I obtain documents from the Administrative Record?

To obtain a copy of the administrative record or any part thereof, contact the Hazardous Waste Bureau at the address given above.

11. Is there a charge to obtain documents from the Administrative Record?

NMED will provide copies, or portions thereof, of the Administrative Record at a charge of \$0.25 per page.