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**New Mexico Environment Department Terminates Chromium
Settlement Agreement and Approves Modification of the
Los Alamos National Laboratory Consent Order**

Santa Fe - On October 30, 2012, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) terminated the Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Final Order (HWB 07-27 (CO)), also known as the Chromium Settlement Agreement. Also, on October 29, 2012, NMED approved a modification of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Consent Order (Order). United States Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (the Permittees) submitted a request on October 22nd to modify the Order to add language requiring the establishment and maintenance of a publicly accessible database that contains environmental data acquired by LANL and also submitted a separate request, on the same date, to terminate the Chromium Settlement Agreement.

The modification to the Order added a new section, Section III.Z, *Public Environmental Database*, that requires the maintenance of a publicly accessible database containing data collected from environmental media acquired during site investigation and monitoring activities. The database replaces the Risk Analysis, Communication, Evaluation and Reduction (RACER) environmental database required by the Chromium Settlement Agreement.

NMED concluded that the terms of the Chromium Settlement Agreement were met as followed:

Payment of a civil penalty in the amount of \$251,870.00 on July 13, 2007;

Modification of the March 1, 2005 Order was modified on June 28, 2008 to add a section requiring notification of detections and increases in contaminant concentrations in groundwater and that this modification would be a Class 2 modification if made under the Permit;

Creation of a publicly accessible database containing information related to the presence and concentrations of contaminants in environmental media;

The Permittees will maintain, and to continue to update, the database in accordance with Section III.Z of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Compliance Order on Consent Dated March 1, 2005 as modified on October 29, 2012.

“The termination of the Chromium Settlement will provide continued transparency by allowing public access to a database on reporting requirements stipulated by the Consent Order,” said Secretary Dave Martin. “The information provided in the database is important for the public to access in the long-term”

The modified Consent Order, approval of the Consent Order modification and the Termination of the Chromium Settlement Agreement can be found on the NMED website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/lanlperm.html#Modification10292012>

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