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Secretary Ron Curry Discusses Environmental Issues With Incoming Los Alamos Laboratory Managers

(Santa Fe, NM) — New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry met on Monday afternoon with the managers of Los Alamos National Security, LLC, the company that was recently selected to manage and operate Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), to discuss lab management and operations and the fence-to-fence Consent Order that requires cleanup of legacy wastes at LANL by 2015.

“I appreciate the interest Director Designate Michael Anastasio, Deputy Director Designate John Mitchell and incoming Associate Director for Environmental Management Andy Phelps expressed in working openly and constructively with the Department on waste management, as well as on the 60-plus years of legacy waste still in place at Los Alamos,” Curry said. “The historic Consent Order that was signed last March will serve as the roadmap for how the Department and LANL move forward on these important cleanup issues.”

Secretary Curry told the incoming lab managers that the Department is committed to serving in its role as environmental regulator in an open and transparent way. The discussion included ways to make cleanup more efficient and the fiscal year 2006-2007 U.S. Department of Energy budget outlook for environmental cleanup at LANL.

“They conveyed a commitment to openness and accessibility that was refreshing compared to past LANL management, going out of their way to meet with me and Department staff during an extremely busy transition period in advance of assuming responsibility for LANL on June 1. To me, that shows they understand the importance of environmental stewardship at the lab and the importance of having a good relationship with the Department,” Curry said. “I am optimistic that they say environmental issues will have a higher profile under their leadership.”

Anastasio said, “Our team welcomed the opportunity to exchange views with Secretary Curry. I think we’re off to a good start in our relationship with the Environment Department and look forward to continuing this fruitful dialogue.”

For more information, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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