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## **Environment Department Seeks Public Comment on Draft Hazardous Waste Permit for Los Alamos National Laboratory**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) released for public comment today a draft hazardous waste facility operating permit for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The permit governs LANL’s operation of 27 waste management units and the closure of three disposal units at the facility.

“The New Mexico Environment Department is committed to both cleaning up past messes at the lab as well as making sure future problems do not occur,” said Jon Goldstein, Director of the New Mexico Environment Department’s Water and Waste Management Division. “That is why this permit is designed to work hand-in-glove with the historic, fence to fence clean up order to both remedy past problems and make sure hazardous wastes are properly handled now and in the future.”

The historic fence-to-fence March 1, 2005 cleanup order governs ongoing environmental cleanup, and the draft permit requires cleanup activities after the order terminates as well ensuring the safe handling, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste at the facility. The draft permit also establishes closure milestones and requirements for hazardous and radioactive waste landfills at Technical Area 54. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the owner of LANL, continues to allow disposal of radioactive waste in one of these landfills, known as Area G.

Under the draft Permit, DOE would be required to close that dump and implement a cleanup plan that would protect of human health and the environment. The closure plan for Area G, as well as that for LANL’s other cold war dumps, would be open for public comment before a final decision is made by NMED.

NMED invites the public to submit written comments on the draft permit during a 60-day public comment period that starts today. Members of the public may submit to NMED written comments on the draft permit at any time during the public comment period. After considering all written comments received from the public, NMED will issue a final permit

Both the draft permit and the administrative record may be reviewed by appointment from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau at 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303. Procedures for submitting written comments, requests for a public hearing, and a copy of the draft Permit are also available at the NMED Web site:

<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/lanlperm.html> under LANL Draft Permit.

Written comments and requests for a public hearing will be accepted until **5 p.m., October 26, 2007.**

For more information, contact James Bearzi, Chief, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, at (505) 476-6016, or Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475.

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