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**Environment Secretary Issues Statement on Inspector General Report on LANL's
Cleanup Program**

“NMED applauds the U.S. Department of Energy Inspector General’s recommendation that DOE fully fund the clean up work it agreed to in the 2005 Consent Order at Los Alamos National Laboratory,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “The report recognizes that it is incumbent on DOE to meet its cleanup commitments made to New Mexicans. The Inspector General goes even further, finding that DOE’s budget must be flexible enough to both address the cleanup needs we know about and the contamination that is only now being uncovered, like toxic chromium contamination in regional groundwater supplies.

“The IG appropriately calls for increased funding for LANL cleanup without renegotiating the Order’s milestones. While it is clear that the DOE IG understands the importance of meeting clean up commitments, I’m not convinced that DOE management shares that understanding. The report states that DOE ‘believes it now possesses the tools to work with the regulator to reorder work packages.’ That is simply wishful thinking on DOE’s part that it can wiggle out of its commitments. The State of New Mexico will not renegotiate the Consent Order.”

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