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**Environment Secretary Issues Statement on Department of Energy's Plans for
Expanded Pit Production at Los Alamos**
Lab Must Clean Up Legacy Waste before Embarking on New Missions

(Santa Fe, NM) New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry issued the following statement today on the U.S. Department of Energy's plans for expanded pit production at Los Alamos National Laboratory:

"At a time when DOE is coming up short on needed cleanup funding at Los Alamos, we shouldn't even be talking about increased production of plutonium pits. Addressing and correcting LANL's legacy of pollution should be job number one for the lab. That is why we put a state-enforceable fence to fence clean up order in place in 2005.

Before it looks at new missions, the lab must meet its cleanup commitments to the people of New Mexico. It's unconscionable that the Department of Energy and its contractors at Los Alamos are even considering funding additional pit production while at the same time refusing to put the required funding towards cleanup. They can't expect the citizens of New Mexico to continue to potentially be exposed to new pollution when their 60 year legacy of contamination remains unaddressed. They must fully fund and implement the cleanup order before any new missions are considered. It is the lab's legal and moral responsibility to implement that order."

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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