

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

STATEMENT OF RESPONSE

May 30, 2014

Contact: Jim Winchester
Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department
(505)231-8800 / jim.winchester@state.nm.us

New Mexico Environment Department Responds to Department of Energy's Announcement Regarding the 3706 Campaign at Los Alamos National Lab

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is disappointed, but not surprised by today's announcement that the Department of Energy will not be able to successfully complete the 3706 Campaign to remove all of the above-ground transuranic (TRU) waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) by the June 30, 2014 deadline. The current circumstances at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant dictate that the highest priority of NMED continues to be ongoing protection of public safety and the environment by ensuring all precautions are being taken by the U.S. Department of Energy during the investigation into the February 14th radiological release. The state will review potential options in regards to the larger Consent Order for all legacy waste clean-up at LANL, including DOE's track record at LANL. While the situation at WIPP has temporarily halted the 3706 Campaign, DOE has removed over 4,000 above-ground TRU waste containers over the past two years as a result of the Campaign (93% of the 3706 Campaign TRU Waste has been removed). Prior to the Martinez administration, that waste had sat untouched for over a decade on the LANL site. As soon as the WIPP is able to safely resume operations, NMED will aggressively push DOE to complete the 3706 Campaign.

###