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GOVERNOR

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CABINET SECRETARY

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

July 23, 2026

Contracts Officer
Department of Energy - EMCBC
550 Main Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Re: Request for DOE Approval of Contract Modification to Support the Pueblo of San Ildefonso
(Agreement DE-EM0005293)

Nick,

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Resource Protection Division-DOE Oversight Bureau, respectfully submits this formal request for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), to authorize a modification to Federal Financial Assistance Agreement DE-EM0005293 to allocate dedicated funding in the amount of \$500,000.00 to support the establishment of an independent environmental oversight program for the Pueblo of San Ildefonso. This request is in addition to the approved \$10,755,108.00 award for environmental monitoring and oversight of DOE operations at Los Alamos National Labs by the NMED from FY2024-FY2028.

The Pueblo of San Ildefonso faces direct, long-term impacts from the hexavalent chromium plume originating from historical operations at Los Alamos National Laboratory. As a sovereign nation whose cultural, ecological, and water resources lie within the affected area, the Pueblo requires the capacity to conduct independent environmental review, monitoring, analysis, and engagement throughout the remediation process. Establishing a Pueblo-led oversight program will strengthen transparency, support government-to-government collaboration, and ensure that remediation decisions incorporate Tribal perspectives and scientific evaluation informed by culturally relevant priorities.

NMED requests that DOE Headquarters modify the current DOE Oversight contract to explicitly authorize the creation of such a program and to provide the necessary funding to develop, staff, and sustain it. The requested allocation of \$500,000 is intended to support program formation, including personnel, equipment, technical training, operational infrastructure, and continued participation in remediation oversight. This funding should remain available and renewable as needed until remediation of the hexavalent chromium plume is fully completed and long-term verification monitoring demonstrates that the site poses no further risk to the Pueblo's community or resources.

Additionally, NMED requests DOE Headquarters' support in collaborating with Pueblo leadership to define program scope, deliverables, performance standards, reporting mechanisms, and long-term sustainability requirements as part of the contract modification process. Providing this support will strengthen the overall effectiveness of LANL-related environmental oversight and reinforce DOE's commitment to Tribal sovereignty, environmental protection, and transparent communication.

NMED appreciates DOE Headquarters' consideration of this request and stands ready to engage in further discussions to ensure timely authorization and implementation of this critical oversight capability for the Pueblo of San Ildefonso.

Respectfully,

Beau Masse
NMED Resource Protection Division, DOE Oversight Bureau Chief

CC: Russell L. Lashley, NMED Resource Protection Division Acting Director
Santiago Rodriguez, NMED Resource Protection Division Deputy Director