MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

Via electronic delivery: stanley.pyram@srs.gov

November 10, 2026

Stanley Pyram, P.E., PMP
Acting Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Environmental Management
Los Alamos Field Office
1200 Trinity Drive, Suite 400
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Re: State Participation and Enforceable Milestones on the LANL Hexavalent Chromium Plume

Dear Acting Manager Pyram,

Thank you for your communications last month regarding the second scoping meeting and the ongoing efforts to investigate, control, and remediate the hexavalent chromium groundwater plume originating from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). NMED looks forward to the upcoming scoping meeting scheduled for November 18 to discuss the specific technical terms and timelines in the draft settlement documents transmitted by NMED to your office on September 3, 2026.

Representatives of NMED, San Ildefonso Pueblo (Pueblo), and Department of Energy (DOE) met at DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on August 26, 2026, establishing what appeared to be a productive path forward to resolving outstanding administrative compliance orders and establishing an agreed upon framework for cleanup of hexavalent chromium at LANL and now at the Pueblo. On September 3, 2026 — eight days following that meeting — NMED transmitted draft settlement documents memorializing these discussions. Inexplicably, over two months have passed without a response from DOE.

These draft agreements include tangible physical and operational milestones, such as an enforceable scoping plan, a final drilling work plan, sharing of data and flow modeling with the Pueblo and NMED, obtaining an emergency authorization from the Office of the State Engineer for extraction and land application of treated water and a modified work plan for extraction and land application to remediate contamination of the groundwater. Unfortunately, the informal scoping discussions, such as the session held on October 21, are moving far slower than the more substantive and faster path NMED and DOE discussed in August.

NMED is fully prepared to engage in scoping discussions that are focused on the tangible physical and operational milestones discussed in August, as that is the path that results in genuine remediation without further delay. NMED will provide DOE, the Pueblo, Los Alamos County and the Office of the State Engineer with a proposed agenda for the scoping meeting by the end of this week.

We look forward to discussion of the tangible milestones next week.

Sincerely,

Bruce Baizel
Division Director for Compliance and Enforcement

cc: The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of New Mexico
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