LOS ALAMOS

County Manager's Office

October 29, 2026

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
490 Old Santa Fe Trail,
Room 400 Santa Fe, New
Mexico 87501

Cabinet Secretary James C. Kenney
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 S. Saint Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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COUNTY MANAGER
Anne W. Laurent

Re: Request for Continued State Support and Coordination on the LANL Chromium Plume Response

On behalf of the Los Alamos County Council, I respectfully request the continued and active engagement of the State of New Mexico, particularly the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the Office of the State Engineer (OSE), in efforts to investigate, control, and remediate the hexavalent chromium groundwater plume associated with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

The chromium plume presents a significant concern for Los Alamos County because of its proximity to two County water-supply wells and its potential implications for the long-term protection of our groundwater resources. We also recognize the serious concerns of our neighbors at the Pueblo de San Ildefonso, whose lands have been affected by the contamination. Protecting this shared groundwater resource requires sustained cooperation among the State, the Pueblo, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and Los Alamos County.

We were encouraged by the progress reported following the August 26th meeting among NMED, DOE and the Pueblo at DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C. That meeting appeared to provide a constructive path toward resolving the administrative compliance disputes that have complicated progress on the chromium plume response. The subsequent September 22nd technical scoping meeting, which included representatives of NMED, OSE, DOE, the Pueblo, and Los Alamos County,

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represented an important opportunity to translate that progress into coordinated technical action.

On October 21st, DOE, Newport News Nuclear BWXT Los Alamos (N3B), the Pueblo de San Ildefonso and the County met for a second scoping meeting to discuss potential locations for a reinjection well outside of the chromium plume. County representatives were disappointed to learn on the day of the meeting that NMED and the OSE would not be participating.

We recognize and respect NMED's responsibility to enforce environmental requirements and OSE's statutory authority over water-related permitting and approvals. Their participation in technical discussions is nevertheless essential to developing a response that is both environmentally protective and capable of timely implementation. Continued engagement need not compromise either agency's independent regulatory responsibilities.

Los Alamos County and our Pueblo neighbors have consistently advocated for a coordinated approach in which all parties work together on the investigation, control, and remediation of the chromium plume. The absence of NMED and OSE from these technical discussions risks undermining the progress achieved over the past two months and delaying the development of an effective remedy.

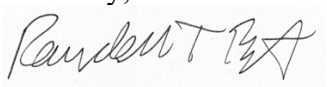
The chromium plume continues to present a significant concern for the protection of groundwater resources serving Los Alamos County and the Pueblo de San Ildefonso. Continued progress depends on focusing on areas of agreement, resolving technical and regulatory questions collaboratively, and avoiding unnecessary delays. While disagreements may remain, all parties share a common interest in protecting groundwater resources and advancing effective remediation.

On behalf of Los Alamos County, I respectfully request that NMED and OSE fully and constructively reengage in ongoing technical discussions and participate in the scoping meetings. Their involvement is essential to evaluating potential reinjection-well locations, identifying regulatory and permitting requirements, and advancing an effective response to the chromium plume.

The County remains committed to working collaboratively with the State, DOE, N3B, and the Pueblo de San Ildefonso. We believe that continued cooperation among all parties offers the best opportunity to achieve a timely, scientifically sound, and durable resolution that protects our shared groundwater resources and the health of all New Mexicans. We would appreciate confirmation that NMED and OSE will participate in upcoming technical scoping meetings and remain actively engaged as the parties work toward an effective remediation strategy.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership. We look forward to the State's renewed participation in these important discussions.

Sincerely,



Randall Ryti
Chair, Los Alamos County Council