Pueblo de San Ildefonso

Office of the Governor

SI-GC27-31

October 26, 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

Re: Request for Continued State Support for the Chromium Plume Response at LANL

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham and Secretary Kenney,

I am writing on behalf of the Pueblo de San Ildefonso (the "Pueblo") to respectfully request the continued and strengthened support of the State of New Mexico, in particular the New Mexico Environment Department ("NMED") and Office of State Engineer ("OSE") in working with the Pueblo and the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") to address the chromium plume emanating from Los Alamos National Laboratory and now on Pueblo lands.

On August 26th, representatives of NMED, DOE and the Pueblo met at DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C. During that meeting, the parties made progress toward resolving the administrative compliance orders that NMED issued in February. The Pueblo was encouraged by the momentum that emerged from the meeting and by the shared recognition among all three governments that appropriate actions to control, investigate and remediate the chromium plume need to be implemented without further delay. We were particularly encouraged by the prospect of resolving the compliance orders, which would allow the parties to focus on the substantial technical work needed. Since then, NMED, DOE and the Pueblo met on September 22nd along with Los Alamos County and the Office of State Engineer for the first scoping meeting to build on the progress made in August.

The second scoping meeting was scheduled for October 21st. At the appointed time, the Pueblo met with DOE and Los Alamos County for a second scoping meeting to discuss potential locations for a reinjection well outside of the chromium plume. I was disappointed to learn on the day of the meeting that NMED and the Office of the State Engineer ("OSE") would not be attending the second scoping meeting. Since NMED is the lead department for environmental compliance issues

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at Los Alamos and NMED initiated the enforcement actions, the participation and technical expertise of NMED is essential to any comprehensive resolution. Additionally, OSE participation is also essential as OSE needs to expedite approvals and permitting for response actions to address the chromium plume. The Pueblo has consistently advocated for a unified approach in which New Mexico, DOE, and the Pueblo work together on the investigation, control, and remediation of the chromium plume. NMED and OSE not attending the scoping meetings convened for the very purpose of advancing the work necessary to address the chromium plume risks undermining the progress achieved over the past two months.

Damage to our vital groundwater aquifer is ongoing as the chromium plume expands beyond the Los Alamos facility contaminating greater and greater volumes of valuable groundwater. As agreed at the August meeting, our collective effectiveness to address the chromium plume depends on staying focused on areas of agreement, avoiding legal posturing whenever possible, and pursing collaborative efforts. We share a common interest in protecting and remediating our vital groundwater resources. Disconnected discussions will only prolong disagreements, while the chromium plume contamination continues to expand.

On behalf of the Pueblo, I respectfully request that NMED and OSE fully and constructively re-engage in these discussions to address the chromium plume and participate in the scoping meetings. The Pueblo stands ready to continue this work alongside the State, and we believe that, together, our governments can achieve a resolution that protects the Pueblo's resources and the health of all New Mexicans.

The Pueblo also appreciates NMED's recent efforts to provide funding to support the Pueblo's response to the chromium plume. I received Secretary Kenney's October 9th letter and draft Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") to provide funding from the Hazardous Waste Emergency Fund. On October 16th, the Pueblo requested clarification on two points: (1) to confirm the available funding can be used for technical and legal fees and expenses; and (2) whether, in the interest of efficiency, bi-annual reporting may be utilized rather than monthly reporting. With these two clarifications, the Pueblo would like to move forward with the MOA as soon as possible so that the funding can be put to use as soon as possible. Please confirm these clarifications can be made to the MOA.

Thank you for your continued partnership. The Pueblo looks forward to continuing to work with the State to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Moquino
Governor
Pueblo de San Ildefonso

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