



SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR

Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary*

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NEWS RELEASE

June 2, 2016

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

Governor Susana Martinez Announces Safe Removal of Hazardous Material from Santa Fe Industrial Site

Teamwork and Safety Guide the Removal Work that Occurred at No Cost to Taxpayers

Los Alamos, NM – Today, Governor Susana Martinez and New Mexico Environment Secretary Ryan Flynn announced the safe removal of hazardous material from a warehouse owned by Thermo Fisher Scientific in Santa Fe to Los Alamos National Laboratories. At an event marking the safe removal, the Governor recognized the teamwork between the New Mexico Environment Department's Radiation Control Bureau, Los Alamos, the U.S. Department of Energy, Thermo Fisher, and other state and federal agencies.

"The Environment Department's work means that New Mexicans don't have to foot the bill for this cleanup," Governor Martinez said. "Safely transferring the drum to LANL will allow the experts to evaluate the material and determine the best path forward."

For over 10 years, a small quantity of a dangerous material, americium, languished inside of a drum at the Santa Fe warehouse. The Environment Department, under Secretary Flynn's watch, found deficiencies. Secretary Flynn and his team ordered Thermo Fisher to remove the hazardous material and with Thermo Fisher, developed a settlement agreement to safely transport it to a secure facility at Los Alamos – at no cost to taxpayers.

"I'm proud of all the collaboration that went into the safe removal of this hazardous material; it truly was a team effort," Secretary Flynn said. "Our priority will always be to protect New Mexicans and tackle problems that others might shy away from, and I'm proud to say that we all succeeded in this case."

More than 40 staff from Environment's Radiation Control Bureau, DOE, Los Alamos National Lab, and various other agencies worked together to accomplish the safe removal and transport of the material. Their teamwork was lauded by Governor Martinez, lab Director Charles McMillan, DOE's site office manager Kim Davis Lebak, and Secretary Flynn this morning.

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