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NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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PUBLIC NOTICE No. 11-08 SUBMITTAL OF PERMIT MODIFICATION REQUESTS LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY PERMIT RCRA PERMIT NO. NM0890010515

November 28, 2011

This public notice announces the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) receipt of two major hazardous waste permit modification requests to the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and their availability for public review.

Background:

The State of New Mexico is authorized to operate a hazardous waste management program in lieu of the Federal program for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Under authority of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (HWA; Section 74-4-1 *et seq.*, NMSA 1978, (1998 CUM. SUPP.)) and the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20.4.1 NMAC, Revised March 1, 2009), the NMED can approve, approve with conditions, or deny, hazardous waste management permit and closure plan applications, permit modifications, amendments, and reapplications. Pursuant to 20.4.1.901.C(2) NMAC, NMED must notify the public that a major permit application has been submitted to the Agency and that application is available for public review. Under these authorities and obligations, NMED hereby provides public notice of the permit modification requests identified below.

NMED is charged with issuing a permit that will ensure that LANL's hazardous waste operations are properly managed to protect human health and the environment. On November 30, 2010, NMED issued a renewed hazardous waste permit (**Permit**) to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS), collectively referred to as the "Permittees." The Permit authorizes the Permittees to store and treat hazardous waste and to close hazardous waste disposal units at LANL in accordance with the HWA and its associated regulations. It is this Permit that is proposed to be modified.

LANL is located in Los Alamos County approximately 60 miles north-northeast of Albuquerque and 25 miles northwest of Santa Fe and occupies approximately 40 square miles. LANL generates hazardous waste primarily from its general operations, research and development activities, environmental restoration activities, and decontamination and decommissioning projects.

Modifications:

The Permittees have submitted two major permit modification requests to NMED. One permit

modification request, dated July 19, 2011, requests authorization to operate two high explosive open detonation units, one at Technical Area (TA)-36-8 and the other at TA-39-6. The second permit modification request, dated August 18, 2011, requests authorization to construct and operate a new hazardous waste container storage unit at TA-63. This unit is referred to as the *Transuranic Waste Facility*.

Availability:

Hard copies of these permit modification requests are available for public review at the following locations:

New Mexico Environment Department - Hazardous Waste Bureau, 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505. The permit modifications can be reviewed weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Please request an appointment to review the permit modification submittals and any supporting documents by calling the Hazardous Waste Bureau at 505-476-6000 or 505-476-6064.

J. Robert Oppenheimer Study Center and Research Library, 4200 West Jemez Road at Casa Grande, Los Alamos, New Mexico. The permit modifications can be reviewed weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Electronic copies of the permit modification requests are available for public review at the NMED ftp site: Open Detonation – ftp://ftp.nmenv.state.nm.us/hwbdocs/HWB/lanl/permit/OD_PMR/
Transuranic Waste Facility - ftp://ftp.nmenv.state.nm.us/hwbdocs/HWB/lanl/permit/TA-63_TRUWF_PMR/

In addition, the current LANL Hazardous Waste Facility Permit can be reviewed on the NMED website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/hwb/lanlperm.html#FinalPermit>.

NMED Contact:

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LANL Contact:

Ms. Lorrie Bonds Lopez
Environmental Communication & Public Involvement
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Requests to be included on LANL Mailing List:

Individuals that desire to be included on NMED's facility mailing list for LANL should request inclusion by contacting Ms. Pam Allen at 505-476-6064 or at Pam.Allen@state.nm.us.

Proposed Action:

This notice is only intended to inform the public that the permit modification requests have been submitted to the NMED and that they are available for public review; no action or decision is proposed by NMED at this time for either of these permit modification submittals. The public will have an opportunity to comment when NMED provides public notice of a draft permit.