Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup 2018-2026

Message from the President

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) legacy cleanup program is a critical component of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) mission. I am pleased to chart the central components of the legacy cleanup project and share N3B's many successes at LANL.

Our contract captures an important and challenging work scope. Through this work, we are protecting water quality, cleaning up the land and shipping waste off-site. Most importantly, we'll continue to advance cleanup progress on a foundation of "Safety First, Safety Always."

-Brad Smith

LANL Legacy Cleanup Mission

The legacy cleanup mission is to safely, efficiently, and effectively complete the cleanup of legacy contamination resulting from nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear research at LANL. Cleanup goals include:

- Surface water and groundwater resources are protected, and water leaving LANL is available without restriction
- Contaminated soils present no current or future risk to site workers or neighboring communities
- Legacy waste is treated as needed and disposed off-site
- Long-term monitoring and maintenance is comprehensive and effective
- LANL's mission continues

Cleanup Priorities at LANL

Monitor and control the migration of contaminated storm water linked to historical LANL operations. Investigate, monitor and treat as necessary contaminated groundwater in the regional aquifer for elevated levels of hexavalent chromium and Royal Demolition Explosive.

Remediate sites across LANL where radioactive and hazardous waste was spilled or disposed. Decontaminate and demolish facilities used in LANL's early Cold War-era plutonium processing and radiological liquid waste treatment operations. Remediating contaminated soil protects both human and ecological health and regional water supplies.

Retrieve, process and ship off-site for disposal transuranic (TRU), low-level radiological and hazardous waste generated by LANL during the Manhattan Project and Cold War. Moving waste off-site protects human and environmental health from radiological and hazardous materials.

Accomplishments: April 2018-June 2024

PROTECT WATER QUALITY

- Treated more than 424 million gallons of groundwater contaminated with hexavalent chromium
- Collected more than 22,700 water samples on and around LANL property
- Installed 231 structures to mitigate potential migration of contaminated storm water runoff
- Conducted more than 15,600 storm water control inspections

CLEAN UP THE LAND

- Investigated and remediated more than 303 contaminated legacy waste sites
- Completed one campaign outlined in the 2016 Consent Order with the state of New Mexico (NMED), the main legacy cleanup regulatory agreement; work for a second campaign is complete pending NMED approval
- Completed work in four Aggregate Areas, a program to address historical contamination across canyons and drainages throughout LANL
- Collected more than 15,500 soil and sediment samples

SHIP WASTE OFF-SITE

- Completed 181 TRU waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico
- Initiated retrievals and size-reduction activities of Corrugated Metal Pipes (CMPs), N3B's first below-ground TRU waste retrieval
- Shipped more than 18,200 cubic meters of waste off-site for disposal, including the equivalent of nearly 65,000 55-gallon drums of low-level and mixed low-level waste

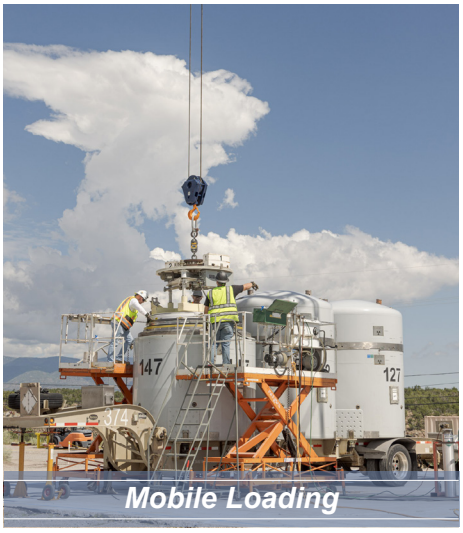
Purchased

$636 million

in goods and services from small businesses

94 of 95

Consent Order milestones completed on schedule as agreed to with the New Mexico Environment Department



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Safety

Our employees and subcontractors work to the highest standards of safety.

Discipline

We set clear goals and execute our plans with the end in mind.

Competence

We have the staff and expertise to ensure our mission is met.

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