

Message from the President



As we move into 2026, the legacy cleanup mission at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) enters an important year—one focused on continued execution today and deliberate preparation for the final phase of our contract. In the months ahead, N3B will continue making tangible progress in our core mission areas: protecting groundwater, cleaning up contaminated land, and reducing remaining inventories of radioactive waste while laying the groundwork for the final contract phase.

This year, we will continue to address the hexavalent chromium plume, one of the highest cleanup priorities at LANL. We will complete drilling one new groundwater monitoring well and begin drilling an additional well to strengthen monitoring and inform treatment efforts. We will also continue shipping transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and supporting EM-LA in meeting its commitments under the State of New Mexico Environment Department Compliance Order on Consent.

Later this spring, we will enter the second and final phase of the N3B contract, which will run through spring 2028. By its completion, we expect to have implemented Expert Technical Review recommendations to augment hexavalent chromium plume cleanup efforts, completed cleanup activities in approximately half of the Aggregate Areas under the contract, and substantially reduced the above-ground inventory of legacy transuranic waste.

Safety remains foundational to everything we do. The strong safety culture established by the N3B workforce is something I am deeply proud of, and it is essential as we take on the remaining work.

Equally important is the trust and engagement of those who have a stake in this mission. In coordination with EM-LA, we will continue to enhance our outreach and education efforts to ensure pueblo members, stakeholders, and the broader public have clear, accessible information about our work—what we are doing, why it matters, and how progress is being measured. We are developing new educational materials and will continue offering meaningful opportunities for engagement and dialogue.

We remain committed to fulfilling our mission with transparency, accountability, and respect for the communities and environment we serve. As we move through this year and into the final phase, we continue to earn trust through performance—and deliver results that will endure.

– Brad Smith



TRU Waste Shipment to WIPP

Highlights of the Quarter

- ✓ Safely and compliantly completed 32 transuranic waste (TRU) shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for permanent disposal. An additional 600-plus cubic meters of hazardous and mixed low-level (radioactive/hazardous) waste was shipped off-site.
- ✓ Continued characterizing and certifying TRU waste in preparation for resuming shipments after WIPP completes its annual maintenance outage in late March or early April.
- ✓ Mobilized a subcontractor to begin drilling preparations for an additional monitoring well to provide monitoring data for the hexavalent chromium plume treatment.
- ✓ Working with EM-LA and the Pueblo de San Ildefonso, EM-LA and N3B received approval for a dual-screen well design for San Ildefonso Mortandad Regional 3. The drilling subcontractor is continuing work on the well, which is expected to be completed later this year.
- ✓ Excavation in the Twomile Canyon Aggregate Area safely removed about 545 cubic yards of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-contaminated soil, meeting the less than one part per million threshold. The Twomile Team managed waste efficiently by transferring containers directly from the site to Technical Area-54, moving 174 bags and shipping 162 bags offsite in 27 shipments so far.
- ✓ During the 2025 Global Summit on Environmental Remediation, the N3B environmental and remediation sampling & data management team delivered two presentations on automated validation and data management during the session, “Data Management as a Foundation for Environmental Decision-Making.” N3B won the Best Presentation Award for “[Environmental Data Management at Los Alamos National Laboratory.](#)”

2025 Community Commitment

N3B Continues Charitable Giving to Start 2026

In 2025, N3B donated more than \$300,000 to 40 organizations, and our team members contributed more than 4,000 volunteer hours in the communities where they live. Since 2018, N3B has provided over \$2,992,000 to community programs, non-profit organizations and workforce development initiatives in Northern New Mexico. In 2026, we will continue our community support for the region with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, health and human services, arts and culture and civic and community programs.

Community Spotlight: STEM Santa Fe

One organization N3B is especially proud to support is STEM Santa Fe. This group is committed to providing programs, mentoring, and resources for youth who are often underrepresented in STEM fields. Through their work, STEM Santa Fe helps these young people realize their potential and expand their future opportunities.

Discover details about our community commitment program: <https://n3b-la.com/community-contributions/>



Julia Robertson Mathematics Festival, STEM Santa Fe

Hexavalent Chromium Plume at LANL

Remediation Efforts and Stakeholder Collaboration

Safely controlling and remediating the hexavalent chromium plume at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to protect groundwater supplies remains the Department of Energy Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) and N3B's top priority for 2026.

EM-LA and N3B are continuing to proactively assess and monitor the plume, and to collaborate with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, Pueblo de San Ildefonso, and Los Alamos County to achieve remediation objectives.

No Risk to Drinking Water

The hexavalent chromium plume is not currently near any known public or private drinking water wells and residents are not at risk. A pump-and-treat method—collectively called the Interim Measures (IM)—has been used to address the plume. Contaminated groundwater is extracted through a series of installed wells and pumped to a treatment unit where ion exchange technology is used to treat the water. Then the treated, clean water is injected back into the aquifer along the plume edge. This method is meant to create a hydraulic barrier around the plume and reduce its size. At NMED's direction, EM-LA ceased all injection operations for the chromium IM on November 18, 2025. Given the design and limitation of alternative water discharge options, ceasing injection necessarily drives cessation of IM operations.

Chromium Working Group

The Chromium Working Group was established to work collaboratively on an agreeable path to restart the IM and address chromium issues. The working group includes NMED, Los Alamos County, EM-LA, N3B and the Pueblo.



R-67 Well Maintenance



Well Mast Up Rig Inspection



	Q1	FY25	Contract to Date
Protect Water Quality			
Storm water control inspections conducted	751	4,664	36,234
Water samples collected	983	4,180	29,723
Hexavalent chromium treated (million gallons)	5.93	88.76	516.08
Clean Up the Land			
Contaminated soil and debris dispositioned (m³ = cubic meters)	465 m³	570.73 m³	12,246 m³
Soil and sediment samples collected	98	712	17,551
Vapor samples collected	160	1,129	5,568
Ship Waste Off-site			
TRU waste shipments to WIPP	32	43	262
TRU waste volume shipped to WIPP	129.62 m³	193.43 m³	920.94 m³
Area G mixed/low-level radioactive waste shipped off-site	63.46 m³	875.43 m³	4,056.32 m³
Other mixed/low-level radioactive waste shipped off-site	465.62 m³	618.46 m³	11,491.65 m³
Hazardous waste shipped off-site	7.12 m³	5.93 m³	290.25 m³
Other waste streams shipped off-site	43.83 m³	574.83 m³	4,653.15 m³
Total waste shipped off-site	709.65 m³	2,268.08 m³	21,397.79 m³
Business Operations and Stakeholder Engagement			
Meetings with stakeholders	8	59	442
Amount committed to small business (millions) (N3B only)	\$2.11	\$56.79	\$600.81
Percentage of subcontracts awarded to small business (N3B only)	23.44%	64.15%	78%

2016 Consent Order Milestones

FY26 - 1 of 10 (9 in progress) FY25 - 11 of 11 **✓ Met 115 of 116 milestones (FY18* - FY25)**

BTN FY26 Q1_FINAL

*Three FY18 milestones met before N3B contract start.