



REGIONAL COALITION of LANL COMMUNITIES

City of Española - Pueblo of Jemez - Los Alamos County - Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh
Rio Arriba County - Santa Fe County - City of Santa Fe - Taos County - Town of Taos

RCLC Directors Report

Submitted to the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities Board on December 21, 2018

RCLC Activities

State Auditor Compliance

The RCLC has continued to adopt OSA recommendations to bring the organization into full compliance.

Proposed bid for an OSA approved auditor have been submitted as well as actions to open the new bank accounts.

Once a new auditor is in place RCLC staff estimate that all audits will be complete by the end of May 2019.

Partner Govt. Relations

The RCLC presented to the Los Alamos County Council on October 30 and jointly appeared with Los Alamos County staff in front of the Santa Fe County Commission on December 11.

At the Oct. 30 council meeting, Los Alamos County Council adopted four motions regarding the RCLC.

The first two motions dealt directly with the RCLC's operations. All four motions are presented below:

- A motion was made that Los Alamos County affirm its support for the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (RCLC) and direct staff to assist RCLC in its efforts to effect the changes recommended in the State Auditor's report. The motion passed with the following vote:7-0
- A motion was made that the Los Alamos County representative on the RCLC pursue removal of Los Alamos County as fiscal agent of the RCLC. The motion passed with the following vote: 7-0
- A motion was made that Los Alamos County investigate RCLC expense reimbursements made to Los Alamos County Employees and Elected Representatives since the inception of the RCLC; and further moved when this investigation is concluded, the County Manager will contact any employee or official who received a reimbursement that is not consistent with the travel policy and seek to recover the money; and further moved the County Manager will provide the County Council with a status report every month during his monthly update with the names of the individuals and the amounts due until all funds have been recovered. The motion passed with the following vote: 5-2
- A motion was made that the Council develop and adopt policies that outline the roles of both employees and elected officials regarding their participation in boards and committees external to the regular operations of Los Alamos County; and further moved that Council direct the County Manager to develop materials specific to each of these external boards/committees that will inform the assigned personnel as to the history of

the parent organization, any agreements that exist between the organization and the County, the administrative policies of the organization, and any additional information relevant to the participation of County employees and elected officials on such boards/committees. The motion passed with the following vote: 7-0

Following the Los Alamos vote, the Santa Fe County Commission asked for the RCLC and Los Alamos county staff to attend their Dec. 11 meeting where they discussed the role of fiscal agent for the RCLC. A suggestion came up that during the upcoming RCLC retreat a proposed amendment be adopted to allow other communities to serve as the fiscal agent.

LANL Director Briefing

Dr. Thomas Mason, the new LANL Director is tentatively scheduled to attend our March meeting and make a presentation to this board.

Intergovernmental Workshop in November

The RCLC Executive Director and CPLC's General Counsel attended the National Intergovernmental Workgroup on DOE EM issues in New Orleans in November. The RCLC has attended this meeting every year for the past three years.

During this meeting the RCLC had the opportunity to meet directly with government representatives from New Mexico, other states, and the Federal government. In addition we were able to meet directly with tribal leadership from throughout New Mexico and our region. We participated in a discussion that led to a consensus for a need for more direct collaboration between local governments and tribes.

Takeaways also included offers for direct briefings to our local government bodies on cleanup at the LANL site.

2018 In Review - Cleanup Funding

Overall past efforts by this body and others in seeking accelerated efforts at cleanup have paid off. In multiple conversations with our congressional delegation we were told that the years of sustained presence from a unified front of local governments has been a significant factor in the securing of additional funding for cleanup. In September Congress passed the Energy & Water Appropriations package that included an increase of cleanup funding to \$220 million, over \$40 million more than requested by the administration.

Government shutdowns

Recent budget disputes are threatening a partial government shutdown, but because of the September bill passage which included DOE funding thru the end of the fiscal year it is not clear how this shutdown would impact LANL operations.

2018 witnessed two short term federal government shutdowns over budget disputes, although they were both short enough to not significantly affect LANL operations.

Over the last two decades there have been multiple shutdowns due to budget fights.

Historically, the prime contractor at LANL has had capacity to maintain operations for several weeks during a shutdown, but if they stretch beyond that, then the lab close up most operations and send almost all the workers home.

Changes in Congress

The 2018 election results changed several factors that will affect New Mexico. The U.S. House will be controlled by Democrats, while Republicans gained two seats in the Senate. With a new majority party in the House, there will be significant changes in committee assignments and leadership. For example, Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) is expected to chair the House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee and she may be friendly to cleanup matters, as there are DOE sites in her state.

WIPP

After restarting shipments to WIPP earlier this year we will see a temporary halt during January as WIPP shuts down regular operations to conduct maintenance. Shipments are scheduled to resume by February.

DNFSB Public Hearing

At our last meeting the board was briefed on the administration's to weaken the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. The DNFSB is a body designed to give outside oversight into DOE and NNSA issues that affect our communities, and in May of this year DOE issued policy Order 140.1 that stripped the organization of much of its authority to perform this role. Senator Udall and Heinrich protested, along with other U.S. Senators, resulting in a promise that a hearing to review the move be scheduled in New Mexico sometime this winter. DNFSB has scheduled an open meeting in January to discuss this issue, but as of yet the New Mexico public meeting has not been scheduled.

Interpretation of High-Level Waste

The deadline for the public to submit comments on the Administration's interpretation of the definition of the statutory term "high-level radioactive waste" was extended to January 9. The proposal was originally published in October. It is expected that the Administration will release a final decision around March or April 2019. This definition could have an impact on what wastes can be shipped to WIPP and possibly storage protocol at LANL.