

Letter of Intent
Meeting Environmental Responsibilities
At New Mexico DOE Facilities

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, are collectively committed to accelerating risk reduction and cleanup of environmental contamination at DOE facilities in New Mexico. When completed, the cleanup will: 1) result in reduced risk from New Mexico's legacy waste sites sooner; 2) allow the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) focus to remain on its core national security mission; 3) support Environmental Management's (DOE-EM) mission of expedited transuranic (TRU) waste cleanup at numerous sites by disposal of this waste in the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) repository; and 4) provide a significant benefit to New Mexico and the nation by reducing the potential environmental, public and worker health, and security risks posed by TRU waste.

In light of the benefits to be obtained from the accelerated cleanup, the undersigned are committed to accelerating all environmental restoration, legacy waste disposal, and implementation of long-term environmental stewardship from 2009 to 2006 at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), and from 2030 to 2015 at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and acceleration of TRU waste disposal from New Mexico facilities at WIPP.

Key Commitments to Ensure Success

All of the parties to this agreement commit to the following in order to achieve accelerated risk reduction and completion of cleanup:

1. Accelerate risk reduction of groundwater and soil contamination, as well as legacy waste at both LANL and SNL, giving priority to the highest risk activities, by:
 - a. Implementing the "Quick to WIPP" strategy which would accelerate the removal and disposal of legacy TRU waste at LANL from 2030 to 2010 (addressing 61% of the radioactivity by 2004);
 - b. Implementing the watershed aggregate approach for environmental restoration at LANL, and accelerating completion of activities of the highest risk watershed and high priority Material Disposal Areas from 2022 to 2008 specifically, and total project from 2030 to 2015; and,
 - c. Completing the remaining risk reduction and resolving uncertainties, resulting in site acceleration of cleanup at SNL from 2009 to 2006.

2. Define regulatory endpoints for LANL and SNL:
 - a. Determine likely future use scenarios and associated cleanup standards;

- b. Pursue necessary actions to ensure long-term effectiveness of institutional controls;
 - c. Continue to improve the definition of data quality objectives and what constitutes sufficient and acceptable data for predictive modeling; and,
 - d. Plan and implement a Long-Term Environmental Stewardship program, working with our regulators and surrounding communities.
3. Continue the established partnership between DOE, its contractors, and regulators for LANL and SNL to:
 - a. Ensure senior-level involvement and support to achieve the desired end state; and,
 - b. Include expansion of high performance teams to focus on accelerated decision making and to optimize cleanup schedules.
4. Shorten review periods within the regulatory framework and provide timely decisions for project execution.
5. Streamline internal processes such as quality control and verification of data, preparation of regulatory documents, maximization of electronic commerce, consolidation and integration of databases, and elimination of duplicative processes.
6. Address resource issues by seeking additional state funding and pursuing new, more tractable hazardous waste fee regulations that provide sufficient (increased) regulatory resources.
7. Integrate DOE and NMED/EPA public participation for more efficient and effective public involvement.
8. DOE, NMED, and EPA are committed to the acceleration of risk reduction and the completion of the environmental cleanup program while at the same time being protective of site workers and the environment.
9. DOE, NMED and EPA further commit to pursuing and adopting innovative cleanup approaches that are protective of the environment and designed to achieve demonstrable risk reduction at a reasonable cost, therefore serving as an effective investment for the American taxpayers.

DOE and its contractors will develop a performance management plan by August 2002. The plan will include actions, milestones, responsibilities, business processes, and acquisition strategies necessary to achieve the agreements made in this letter. The Department recognizes that funding commensurate with the approved performance plan is necessary to achieve the above stated goals of acceleration and closure.

We the undersigned recognize the significant role New Mexico plays in addressing cleanup issues of national importance. By virtue of WIPP's presence, New Mexico plays a crucial role in reducing the risks posed by TRU waste nationwide.

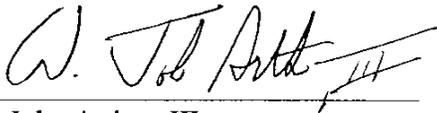
We the undersigned are committed to an accelerated completion of the SNL and LANL environmental projects and the accelerated TRU waste disposal from New Mexico facilities at WIPP. We agree to the above working commitments to support this very important goal. We will continually seek and adopt additional opportunities that further advance the remediation and legacy waste mission in a safe, protective and cost effective manner.



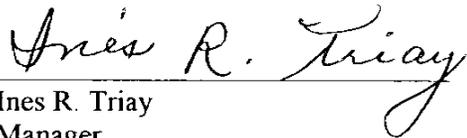
Peter Maggiore
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department



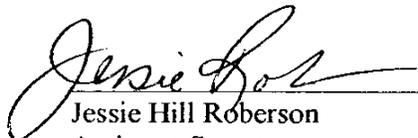
Gregg A. Cooke
Regional Administrator (6RA)
Environmental Protection Agency



W. John Arthur, III
Manager
Albuquerque Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy



Ines R. Triay
Manager
Carlsbad Field Office
U.S. Department of Energy



*See attached
EPA signature.*

Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy