



## Media Advisory from the Board of County Commissioners

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES January 22, 2021

### **BCC to Vote on LANL Environmental Impact Statement Request**

SANTA FE, NM - The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) will vote on a [resolution](#) requesting the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) prepare and complete a new Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) before expanding plutonium pit production at the facility. The resolution will be presented to the full commission by Commissioner Anna Hansen (D-2) and Commissioner Anna T. Hamilton (D-4), at the Tuesday, January 26, 2021, meeting for a vote.

The resolution sites specific safety concerns related to the environment, LANL personnel, and the general public, as well as issues regarding compliance with transparency, in allowing the public opportunities to review, analyze, and provide comments about major federal proposals. In addition, it asks that the NNSA conduct a SWEIS before the plutonium pit production expansion proceeds.

“A full assessment of environmental impacts, tradeoffs, and mitigation, along with complete public disclosure of findings, is absolutely warranted for a federal proposal as major as expanded plutonium pit production,” explained Commissioner Hamilton.

Commissioner Hansen stated, “Since the last SWEIS was completed 13 years ago, there have been many changes including the 2011 Las Conchas fire, the dramatic and damaging revisions to the 2005 New Mexico Environment Department’s Consent Order in 2016. The change with the most far-reaching consequences is the lateral and vertical enlargement of the co-located chromium/perchlorate plume below Sandia and Mortandad Canyons – directly west of the Rio Grande, the Buckman Direct Diversion Project, and the Buckman Wellfield – which supplies over 40% of the drinking water to residents of the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County. All of these changes have directly or indirectly mobilized LANL pollutants that are moving

towards the regional drinking water aquifer.” And emphasized, “A new SWEIS is needed now!”

The BCC meeting will be called to order at 2:00 p.m. and will progress through the agenda items in the order listed. Please read the [agenda here](#).

**Who:** Commissioner Anna Hansen and Commissioner Anna T. Hamilton

**What:** Resolution requesting a LANL environmental impact statement be done by NNSA.

**When:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)

**Contact:** Communications Coordinator Carmelina Hart, [chart@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:chart@santafecountynm.gov) or 505-469-0083

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For additional information, please contact Communications Coordinator Carmelina Hart at 505-469-0083 or [chart@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:chart@santafecountynm.gov).



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