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Press Release from the Board of County Commissioners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 27, 2021

BCC Requests LANL Environmental Impact Statement Prior to Plutonium Pit Production Expansion

SANTA FE, NM - On Tuesday, January 26, 2021, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) voted on a request for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to 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 was introduced to the full commission by Commissioner Anna Hansen (D-2) and Commissioner Anna T. Hamilton (D-4) and passed unanimously following additional amendments from Commissioner Henry Roybal (D-1).

"I feel that public health and safety is so important, and is one of the reasons why I brought this resolution forward," Commissioner Hansen explained. "When we are able to do a Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement, it allows the public to actually have comments and make comments about what is happening to our neighbors and how we need to protect our water supply."

With a second on the resolution, Commissioner Hamilton added, "NEPA needs to be fully enforced. The value of having a Site-Wide EIS is well explained in the resolution and was augmented by some of the evidence that was mentioned in public comment. So, I think this is important and valuable, and very important to put forward."

Resolution 2021-011 sited 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 regarding major federal proposals.

The request consists of suspension of any planned expansion of plutonium pit production until any outstanding nuclear safety issues are resolved, and in

accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NNSA immediately begin a new SWEIS at LANL before the plutonium pit production expansion proceeds.

The formal request will now be forwarded to all interested parties and the NNSA.

Please contact Communications Coordinator Carmelina Hart at 505-469-0083 or chart@santafecountynm.gov for more information.

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For additional information, please contact Communications Coordinator Carmelina Hart at 505-469-0083 or chart@santafecountynm.gov.



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