2017 Federal Legislative Priorities
Strengthening Mission & Community Commitment

Sufficient Funding & Mission Diversity: Sufficiently fund Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to maintain strong scientific capabilities and support the diversification of missions. The Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (RCLC) also urges the new Administration and Congress to provide financial resources for education, outreach, and feasibility studies on the impacts associated with the implementation of vital Department of Energy (DOE) operations. Our Board Members and network of stakeholders will be powerful partners in the budget and appropriations process if we are engaged early and often.

Community Engagement: DOE should continue to consistently fund the RCLC to enable local governments and tribes to participate in supporting economic development, involving us in environmental cleanup decision-making, and encouraging the diversification of projects, especially those that include local workforce education and training initiatives.
- DOE Environmental Management (EM) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) decision-making processes should involve consultation with our local elected and tribal officials on a pre-decisional basis when any positive or negative impact(s) on the local community is conceivable.
- DOE and NNSA should continue to have meaningful engagement with local governments when developing programmatic proposals and environmental impact statements in order to educate interested parties.

Workforce Cultivation & Support: DOE must develop a recruiting and retention initiative to address the departure of 25-30% of LANL workers, filling 2,500 positions, inviting new talent to job opportunities at LANL over next five years, and foreseeable hiring, ongoing. The Coalition will support this initiative to attract and retain these individuals, as this will be the largest LANL workforce shift in the Lab’s history within the five-year timeframe.
- DOE should encourage the support and participation of site and field office leadership in local education events, workforce training programs, and other mutually beneficial opportunities. This includes coordinating with our local universities and technical colleges to create apprenticeships and internships wherever possible.
- DOE, NNSA, and their contractors must work with local communities to develop and support STEM curriculum for K-12 education as to secure local, sustained streams of workforce talent able to assist in the decades-long cleanup processes and ongoing NNSA missions at LANL. To fund these initiatives, DOE should continue to request appropriations for, and expand grants to, local educational institutions to train the next generation of DOE workers.

Direct Community Commitment at LANL: As the DOE, NNSA, and LANL embark upon an Acquisition Strategy for a new Management and Operations prime contractor(s) at LANL, the Coalition wants to be involved in the decision-making process. The RFP should include community commitment investments, 5% preference to local contractors who do business with the Lab, and consistent communication with communities through the life of the contract.

Nuclear Posture Modernization: Sufficiently fund projects that address maintenance of DOE and NNSA’s missions. Due to aging infrastructure, maintenance backlogs, and deteriorated facilities, the mission is threatened and should not be ignored by the new Administration or Congress. It must be made a priority to ensure the safety of workers, communities, and the nation at large. Additionally, each project at LANL is an important social and economic driver in our communities.
- DOE, and NNSA especially, should continue work to modernize LANL.
- NNSA must resolve maintenance and disposition issues at LANL, prioritized by need and/or risk.

Small Business Contracting: DOE should support and consider small businesses in procurement efforts, especially those of “strategic sourcing”. DOE should have a clear objective to support local companies and contractors qualified to provide commercial goods and services to DOE, NNSA, EM and other federal entities. The Regional Coalition supports an open, fair and balanced approach to site acquisition strategy for contractors who bid on cleanup projects and other acquisition opportunities at LANL.
Support of Manhattan Project National Historical Park: With our local communities as hosts to the newest national park, we ask Congress, National Park Service, and DOE to work collaboratively in the development and operation of the park. Our communities of and around LANL appreciate and acknowledge the history of the role played in helping to end World War II through their involvement in the Manhattan Project.

- We ask that DOE reaffirm its commitment to supporting the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. This includes preservation of historical documents and sites as well as cooperation with local communities and the National Park Service.
- In order to facilitate the creation of the park, DOE must request funding through the appropriate program office to support DOE’s responsibilities to the Park.
- DOE’s Office of Legacy Management, EM, and NNSA must work with our local communities and the National Park Service to include as many nationally significant sites and information to be made accessible to Park visitors.

Environmental Cleanup

Adequate Funding for Cleanup Efforts at LANL: The Environmental Management site office at LANL needs consistent, reliable and sufficient funding to meet NM/DOE Consent Order agreed progress mandates, rooted in Lifecycle Baseline Cost estimates and annual planning. DOE should request Congress to appropriate its budget for FY17 at $199 million and FY18 at $229 million for cleanup activities at LANL according to the documented minimum amount needed to meet Consent Order requirements.

- Meet all demands within the Consent Order and prioritize funding to meet highest risk-based management of: Chromium plume characterization and interim measures; RDX (WWII explosives) characterization; and progress on TA-21’s investigation and remediation.
- DOE-EM and EM-LA should engage our Coalition members and other key local stakeholders at every stage of the budget development and appropriations process to create a budget that will meet cleanup needs.
- DOE leadership must avoid the consequences that inadequate, unsustainable, unpredictable, and non-compliant budgets can have on the cleanup mission, trust with partners, as well as community health and safety.

Meeting Stated & Mandated Goals: DOE and NMED must continue to engage local and pueblo government officials on all aspects of DOE cleanup opportunities. Transparent communication between local governments, states, tribes, and DOE is essential for achieving a successful cleanup mission. With a signed Consent Order Agreement between the State of NM and DOE, a Lifecycle Baseline Contract, and oncoming cleanup prime contractor, we believe we are poised to reach all stated cleanup goals.

Smooth Transitioning for Next Prime Contractor: While we admire the efforts of EM to hold a smooth acquisition process for the next prime contractor for the Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contract, we look forward to introducing our communities to the next contractor and ask for a detailed plan stating what the new prime contractor transition will look like as the reigns go from LANS to the oncoming contractor.

Enhance Host-Community Support & Property Transfer: As host communities to LANL’s mission, we endure a number of challenges, including the stagnation of our populations and perhaps even lost additional business opportunities due to LANL’s mission.

- DOE must continue support for our communities’ educational development, economic diversification, and other programs to demonstrate DOE’s commitment to our local governments.
- DOE should continue to provide our local communities with grants for third-party assessments of DOE decisions so that the economic and social impacts of DOE operations can continue to be fully understood by local communities.
- DOE should proactively seek local government input when renegotiating environmental cleanup federal facility agreements. Our local governments and citizens are most impacted by decisions that will have lasting economic, environmental, and public health effects.
- DOE should engage with our Board to prioritize the transfer of excess properties to be redeveloped for local economic benefit.