



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

Telephone (505) 827-2855

Fax (505) 827-2836

www.nmenv.state.nm.us



PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

For Immediate Release
May 2, 2002

Contact: James Bearzi, Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau

Phone: (505) 428-2512

Contact: Cathy Tyson, Communications Director

Phone: (505) 827-2855

**State Environment Department Schedules Public Informational Meetings
Concerning Draft Order for Investigation and Cleanup of Contamination at
Los Alamos National Laboratory**

(Santa Fe, NM) –Today the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued a draft order to Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) requiring a comprehensive investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites at LANL. The draft order addresses all significant environmental cleanup issues at LANL, including hundreds of contaminated sites, landfills, and surface and ground water. It marks the first time the state has set strict schedules for LANL's environmental cleanup work, and will help ensure appropriate prioritization of environmental activities by LANL and the Department of Energy (DOE).

In an effort to answer questions from and generally inform the public about the draft order, the NMED will be holding informational meetings in late May. The meetings will be held from **6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** The dates and locations are as follows:

- **Tuesday, May 21 – Española:** Northern New Mexico Community College Auditorium, 921 Paseo de Oñate
- **Thursday, May 23 – Jemez Springs:** Jemez Springs High School Auditorium, 8501 Highway 4

- More -

- **Tuesday, May 28 – Los Alamos:** Smith Auditorium, Los Alamos High School, 1400 Diamond Drive
- **Thursday, May 30 – Santa Fe:** Harold Runnels Building, Auditorium, 1190 S. St. Francis Drive

At these meetings NMED personnel will provide information about the order and answer questions to clarify its content. These are informational meetings, and there will be no opportunities for presenting oral testimony; however, members of the public may submit to NMED written comments on the draft order at any time during the public comment period, including at the informational meetings. NMED will issue the final order after considering all written comments.

The NMED is inviting the public to submit written comment on the draft order during a sixty-day public-comment period that starts today. NMED will issue the final order after considering all written comments. Both the draft order and the administrative record may be reviewed at the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau located at 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303. Procedures for submitting written comments and a copy of the draft order are also available at the NMED website:

<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/pubnotice.html>.

Written comments will be accepted until **5 p.m., July 1, 2002.**

For additional information, please contact James Bearzi, Chief, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, at (505) 428-2512, or Cathy Tyson, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.