

# Project Update

## Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup

Q4  
2023

### Message from the President



September 30th marked the end of fiscal year (FY) 2023, and I am proud of our many accomplishments over the past year, working in close collaboration with the Department of Energy's Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office. We completed soil cleanup work at two Aggregate Areas (canyons and drainages throughout Los Alamos National Laboratory containing legacy contamination); exceeded our waste shipment goals; including for transuranic (TRU) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico; completed field work at Middle DP Road; secured approval from the EPA for the new stormwater program, plus much more.

This past year also marked our commitment to bring to the fore our operational excellence program. Through this important initiative, we are taking concrete steps to enhance our workforce safety culture, improve operations, and strengthen and reinforce our safety measures. How we work is as important as what we get done.

I am just as proud of the positive impact N3B has had on the communities and residents throughout Northern New Mexico. Fourteen people completed our workforce development programs, setting them on the path to a rewarding career. We also supported 44 nonprofit organizations through our community commitment efforts, committing more than \$200,000 to nonprofit organizations in Northern New Mexico.

Our success rests on the hard work and dedication of the N3B team. For their commitment to this important project, I am grateful.

– Brad Smith

### FY23 Highlights

**14 of 14**

Consent Order Milestones Met

**59**

Shipments to WIPP,  
exceeding DOE goal of 40

**2**

Aggregate Areas work  
completed

**21,018**

55-gallon drum equivalents of  
total waste shipped

**\$236M**

Amount committed to small  
business, bringing N3B's total  
to \$514 million

**79%**

Percentage of  
subcontracts awarded to  
small business

### Spotlight on Safety: Slips, Trips and Falls

In September, N3B team members participated in Slip Simulator training. This training was the second time this year N3B brought this tool to the worksite. Historically, injuries from slips, trips and falls are among the most frequently reported safety incidents at N3B. The simulator reproduces many of the workplace hazards N3B team members confront in a variety of work environments. Each class includes a presentation on slip, trip and fall frequency, and discusses fall and prevention techniques. Participants then walk along the simulator's surface strapped to a harness while navigating walking hazards.

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## Highlights of the Quarter

- ✓ Completed field work at North Ancho Aggregate Area and Threemile Canyon Aggregate Area.
- ✓ Completed field work at Middle DP Road. The multi-year project is critical to Los Alamos County's economic development needs.
- ✓ Successfully resolved gaps in the training program, allowing for the resumption of work activities at TA-54.

## Additional Accomplishments



### PROTECT WATER QUALITY

#### Hexavalent Chromium Plume: Remediating contaminated groundwater

- Initiated drilling of hexavalent chromium well R-76 (one of the seven Consent Order milestones).
- Completed abandonment of monitoring well R-73



### CLEAN UP THE LAND

**Material Disposal Areas (MDAs):** Securing needed data and preparing solutions to address old waste disposal sites

- MDA H – Submitted to NMED the Corrective Measures Evaluation (CME). The CME includes a risk assessment, alternatives analysis, and preferred alternative for remediation.
- MDA C – Initiated the semiannual vapor monitoring program

**Aggregate Areas:** Remediating surface soils throughout LANL to protect water quality

- Threemile Canyon Aggregate Area – Completed the work and submitted to NMED the investigation report, including the risk assessment
- North Ancho Canyon Aggregate Area – Completed the work and submitted to NMED the investigation report, including the risk assessment



### SHIP WASTE OFF-SITE

**WIPP Shipments:** Completed five shipments (9.6 cubic meters (m<sup>3</sup>)) of transuranic (TRU) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), bringing the FY23 total to 59 shipments (111.55 m<sup>3</sup>). The FY23 target was 40 shipments.

**Corrugated Metal Pipes (CMPs):** 158 metal pipes filled with radiologically contaminated cement

- Retrieved 14 CMPs
- Size-reduced 4 CMPs

**Low Level Waste (LLW)/Mixed LLW Shipments:** Shipped 318.85 m<sup>3</sup> of low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste off-site for disposal (equivalent to 1,531 55-gallon drums)

## Operational Excellence – Field Observations

To help improve safety, the work culture, and performance, N3B senior management started several operational excellence initiatives. One initiative is joint field observations with senior leaders from both N3B and EM-LA. Another is manager and employee observation. Through these processes, N3B leadership and EM-LA are better able to ensure workers in the field have what they need to accomplish the work and bring safety hazards to light before an accident can occur.

Only by understanding what employees on the front-line are experiencing can senior management address any issues.

From January through September 2023, N3B committed more than \$200,000 to nonprofit organizations in Northern New Mexico

## Boot Camp

At the end of September, 12 newly trained nuclear waste processing operators received their nuclear waste processor or handler certifications after completing a 16-week boot camp program. Each graduate received a full-time work assignment at N3B after passing a waste operator comprehensive exam. The Nuclear Waste Processing Operator Boot Camp is conducted in partnership with the University of New Mexico-Los Alamos (UNM-LA). Students earn 10 college credits along with a competitive wage and full benefits during the program. N3B pays the tuition for those program participants who pursue an associate degree in nuclear enterprise science and technology at UNM-LA.



## Community Spotlight – Feed New Mexico Kids

New Mexico leads the nation in childhood hunger as 25 percent of children live in food insecure homes. To help remedy this situation, each Friday during the school year, the nonprofit Feed New Mexico Kids assembles and supplies children with packages of nonperishable, easy-open, single-serve food items. During the school year, the children typically get their breakfast and lunch at school, but on weekends their meals are far less certain. Hence, the critical need for this program. Feed New Mexico Kids works with five school districts extending from Los Lunas to Santa Fe, supporting 1,850 children each week. N3B's \$10,000 contribution will provide about one week's worth of food for the program.

If you are interested in becoming part of this program, visit their website at <https://feednmkids.org/>



