

Project Update

Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup

Q1
2024

Message from the President



In mid-December, N3B received EM-LA's fiscal year (FY) 2023 fee determination, receiving approximately \$13.2 million, or 77 percent of the maximum allowable fee. This percentage aligns with what N3B received in FY22.

EM-LA recognized N3B for numerous strengths, including exceeding the transuranic (TRU) waste shipping goals and the successful start to the retrieval and size-reduction of corrugated metal pipes. EM-LA also acknowledged the progress made in several internal areas—building a work culture rooted in operational excellence, significantly improving the safety culture, strengthening the employee concerns program, and improving root cause analyses and business programs.

EM-LA's fee determination was based subjective analyses and on progress made in achieving many performance-based goals, including meeting all 14 Consent Order milestones agreed to with New Mexico Environment Department. N3B's improved performance in subjective areas include a ranking of "good" for quality assurance and safety, schedule and cost control, "very good" for management and "excellent" for regulatory compliance.

As it does each year, EM-LA identified several opportunities for improvement—coordination with EM-LA, cost and schedule reporting and invoicing. N3B is working closely with EM-LA to address these areas while conducting our important mission safely and efficiently. The fee determination is publicly available. I encourage you to review it. ([Click here for FY23 fee determination](#))

– Brad Smith

\$349,865

donated to 46 local nonprofit groups and community events sponsorships in 2023

49%

of the funds went to groups engaged in STEM and other educational programs in the region

21%

supported nonprofits providing health and other human services

19%

was devoted to nonprofit arts and civic organizations

11%

was spent in support of civic groups and events

5%

of N3B's earned fee over the life of the Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contract benefits community organizations and supports workforce development in Northern New Mexico



On November 13, 2023, workers at Middle DP Road Site in Los Alamos completed the final shipment of contaminated soil. Throughout the project, personnel removed and prepared for disposal more than 5,917 cubic yards of waste and debris—approximately 370 roll-off containers.

Project Update FY24 Q1 FINAL

Highlights of the Quarter

- ✓ Completed the White Rock Canyon sampling campaign, a four-day event that used rafts and hiking along the Rio Grande. Collected samples at 20 of 25 locations. Due to water levels and wildlife (i.e., rattlesnakes) not all sites were sampled.
- ✓ Completed Middle DP Road Site field work, submitting the assessment report to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for approval
- ✓ Completed shipping waste from the North Ancho Canyon Aggregate Area project
- ✓ Completed the Annual Soil Sediment Sampling campaign, the earliest the campaign has been completed

Additional Accomplishments



PROTECT WATER QUALITY

◆ ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS ◆

Hexavalent Chromium Plume: Remediating contaminated groundwater

- Completed monthly sampling of the chromium extraction and injection wells in Mortandad Canyon.

Sampling: Monitoring surface water and groundwater to ensure water is protected

- Collected 961 water samples to the support water quality protection program, including at Starmer/Upper Pajarito Canyon Aggregate Area and the Twomile Canyon Aggregate Area.



CLEAN UP THE LAND

◆ ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS ◆

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

- MDA C – Completed the semiannual vapor monitoring program. VOC and tritium samples were successfully collected at 18 monitoring wells.
- Airport Landfill – Completed the Year 8, Quarter 2 inspection; no deficiencies were identified.

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

- Chaquehui Canyon Aggregate Area – Secured NMED approval of the Phase III Investigation Work Plan.

Sample Collection: understanding the nature and extent of contamination, determining where removal is needed to protect human and ecological health, and ensuring regulatory standards are met

- Collected 1,440 soil and sediment samples, including from the Starmer/Upper Pajarito Aggregate Area and the Twomile Canyon Aggregate Area.



SHIP WASTE OFF-SITE

◆ ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS ◆

WIPP Shipments: Completed six shipments (21.88 cubic meters (m³)) of transuranic (TRU) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), bringing the total shipments since April 2018 to 171 shipments (548.49 m³).

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

- Continued CMP size reduction activities following the resumption of work activities.
- Through December 2023, have retrieved 24 CMPs and size-reduced 17.

LLW/MLLW Waste Shipments: Shipped 171.54 m³ of low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste off-site for disposal (equivalent to 824 55-gallon drums)

Spotlight on Safety: N3B Observation Program

“If you see something, say something” is one of N3B’s core principles. In 2023, as part of the Operational Excellence initiative and in furtherance of this principle, N3B adopted an observation program. Its purpose is to emphasize the first element—proactively identifying potential issues before they become problems. Observations regarding potential risks and opportunities for improvement bring to the fore leading indicators. Reporting an observation allows management to take preventive action to address the failure or hazard before it becomes more serious.

Taken together, observing and reporting potential problems aids in collecting data that can guide N3B’s efforts for continuous improvement, allowing N3B to predict and avoid future safety incidents.

Making a Difference in Our Community

In late October 2023, N3B held public meetings in Española and Abiquiu to share its Community Contributions Program with Northern New Mexico nonprofit organizations. The seminar included an in-depth discussion on how to access funding. Twenty people representing two dozen organizations attended.



*N3B Annual Safety Fair
September 21, 2023*

Community Spotlight – FIRST Team 4153 – Project Y, Los Alamos High School Robotics Team

N3B recently contributed \$5,000 to support the Los Alamos High School robotics team, called the FIRST Team 4153-Project Y. The team’s mission is “to create a sustainable FIRST program that incorporates the ideals of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in our community and in neighboring communities.” The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition brings together high school teams worldwide to promote STEM education and friendly, collaborative competition. Through the promotion of team building, technical skills, leadership and hard work, FIRST works to develop interest and inspiration in STEM for students and mentors alike.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, visit their website at <https://team4153.org/>

Did You Know? Project Y was the Manhattan Project code name for the secret site that would later be called Los Alamos National Laboratory. Government officials initially considered siting Project Y at the Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago, or in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, at the site now known as Oak Ridge National Laboratory, but eventually decided on a remote location.



	Q1	FY23	Contract to Date
Protect Water Quality			
Storm water control inspections conducted	991	4,721	13,733
Water samples collected	961	3,622	20,478
Hexavalent chromium treated (million gallons) <small>*System shut down 3/31/23 per NMED directive.</small>	0*	41.98	424.5
Clean Up the Land			
Contaminated soil and debris dispositioned (m ³ = cubic meters)	46 m ³	3,434 m ³	7,008 m ³
Soil and sediment samples collected	1,440	4,549	13,042
Vapor samples collected	95	809	3,486
Ship Waste Off-site			
TRU waste shipments to WIPP	6	59	171
TRU waste volume shipped to WIPP	21.88 m ³	111.35 m ³	548.49 m ³
Area G mixed/low-level radioactive waste shipped off-site	118.68 m ³	428.39 m ³	2,574.26 m ³
Other mixed/low-level radioactive waste shipped off-site	52.86 m ³	3,456.57 m ³	9,763.52 m ³
Hazardous waste shipped off-site	3.11 m ³	11.17 m ³	276.53 m ³
Other waste streams shipped off-site	141.04 m ³	367.05 m ³	3,801.76 m ³
Total waste shipped off-site	337.57 m³	4,374.53 m³	16,964.56 m³
Business Operations and Stakeholder Engagement			
Meetings with stakeholders	12	98	304
Amount committed to small business (millions) (N3B only)	\$59.23	\$236.59	\$565.85
Percentage of subcontracts awarded to small business (N3B only)	98.05%	79.13%	81.35%

2016 Consent Order Milestones			
FY24 - TBD	FY23 - 14 of 14	Met 89 of 90 milestones ✓ (FY18* - FY23)	
<small>BTN FY24 Q1 FINAL</small>		<small>*Three FY18 milestones met before N3B contract start.</small>	