

Message from the President



As we head into the summer work season, N3B is expanding the soil cleanup program to include field work in five areas across Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) where legacy contamination presents unacceptable risks to human health and the environment. These locations, known as Aggregate Areas, lie within canyons throughout LANL. Each one presents unique challenges, and waste from one to another is different. Through this focus on the Aggregate Areas, N3B continues to make progress in its commitment to clean up the land.

Driving down the legacy waste inventory also remains a priority. When N3B assumed the legacy cleanup contract in late April 2018, 1,883 containers of low-level and mixed low-level waste were being stored at Technical Area 54. By the end of September 2024, N3B will finish shipping the remaining 188 containers, ending this important project and reducing the risk from legacy waste.

Our focus does not stop there. How we do the work is as important as what we do, so that's why I am proud to announce our new program, Mission Excellence. Led by Mission Excellence Program Manager Bret Griebenow, this initiative integrates safety, compliance, training, communication and quality control. As a critical element of our continuous improvement organization, Mission Excellence will institutionalize best practices throughout our workforce, leading to safe, compliant, efficient and effective execution of our mission.

– Brad Smith

Mission Excellence

Over the past year, as N3B achieved several important legacy cleanup milestones, senior management developed and stood up a new initiative: Mission Excellence. This initiative sets the foundation for N3B's long-term success at LANL. The program goal is to bring to the fore disciplined operations, to elevate maintenance and work control to ensure consistency across the project and to foster a unified approach to legacy cleanup work throughout N3B.

This program has five primary focal points: (1) strengthening the workforce culture to better align with and support the legacy cleanup mission; (2) increasing employee involvement in work planning and implementation; (3) implementing the Oak Ridge Associated Universities' (ORAU) recommended changes following ORAU's safety culture assessment; (4) focusing on being a continuously learning organization; and (5) bringing in new executive leadership to drive change. Through disciplined operations, N3B will make sure we are doing the work correctly the first time every time.



Technical Area 21 Waste Shipping Team

Highlights of the Quarter

- ✓ Provided a series of technical presentations, including aquifer modeling and IM operations, and tours of the Chromium Interim Measure (IM) to the Hexavalent Chromium Project Technical Review Team.
- ✓ Initiated semiannual vapor sampling at Material Disposal Area (MDA) C.
- ✓ Began first round semiannual 2024 vapor sampling at Material Disposal Area (MDA) C.
- ✓ Provided a tour of Chromium IM in Mortandad Canyon and Technical Area (TA) 21 for staff of U.S. Representative Teresa Leger Fernández.
- ✓ Hosted the annual Individual Permit public meeting; more than 80 attended this virtual event.
- ✓ Collected more than 2,000 gas, sediment, soil and water samples to support environmental remediation work.
- ✓ Completed 41 shipments of radioactive, hazardous and other wastes, totaling 540.7 cubic meters (m³), equivalent to 2,597 55-gallon drums.
- ✓ Started Universal Drum Assay and Segregation System (UDASS) demonstration operations in TA-54. This system is more sophisticated than current waste characterization approaches, and could result in more waste being appropriately designated as low-level, rather than transuranic (TRU), ensuring proper disposal while saving space at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

Last Step Completed at Middle DP Road Site Cleanup

On February 14, 2024, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) agreed that the investigation and remediation of soil and debris from legacy operations at the Middle DP Road Site in Los Alamos was complete. Middle DP Road, which borders the historic Los Alamos Townsite, is an important part of Los Alamos County's economic development efforts, and the cleanup work and subsequent NMED determination allows the development to resume.

N3B's fieldwork included collecting 867 soil samples from 289 locations, evaluating them for human health and ecological risk and shipping contaminated soil and debris off-site for disposal. N3B documented this work in a December 2023 report: [Solid Waste Management Unit Assessment Report for Middle DP Road Site](#) NMED's approval is available ([click here](#)).

Each year, to help protect the Mexican Spotted Owl, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, N3B modifies fieldwork in core habits during the owl's breeding season. Core habitats include rocky, steep-walled canyons and old-growth conifer and pine-oak forests, ideal nesting habitats. Buffer zones, which extend 400 meters past the core habitat area, provide further protection. Activity restrictions in both the core habitat and buffer zones began March 1, 2024, and will continue through August 2024, or until the areas are no longer occupied by owls.



N3B Scholarships

Three area students have received this year's N3B Danny Nichols and Dennis Huddleston Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship winners are Amber Ferree, a student at University of New Mexico-Los Alamos (UNM-LA), and Jade Madrid and Felicia Rodriguez, both students at Northern New Mexico College (NNMC). Amber, Jade and Felicia each received \$9,000 to advance their studies in degrees that can support the important legacy cleanup mission at LANL.

"We're so proud of these students," said Brad Smith. "Their accomplishments are impressive, and their goals are truly inspiring. It's our privilege to support their education and career journey." The scholarships support students pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) degrees at UNM-LA and NNMC. Applicants must have successfully completed at least 15 credit hours and have a minimum GPA of 3.3. Qualified students at UNM-LA and NNMC interested in applying for the 2025 scholarship should watch for information from their school's financial aid office this fall.



WMS 2024 - Scholarship Winners



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

In March, N3B published its 2023 *Community Commitment Annual Report*. N3B contributed approximately \$500,000 within Northern New Mexico toward workforce development programs as well as financial contributions to 44 nonprofit groups and community events in the region. Additionally, N3B team members devoted nearly 3,100 hours of their personal time to support 43 nonprofit organizations.

[Click here for the report](#)

Community Spotlight – Las Cumbres Community Services

In March 2023, N3B provided a grant to Las Cumbres Community Services to support their Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program. Las Cumbres' mission is "to provide quality services, public awareness, and integrated community supports for children, adults, and families facing social, emotional, and/or developmental challenges." Grandparents Raising Grandchildren provides support and resources to foster the growth and well-being of grandparents serving as the primary caregivers to their grandchildren. The program is available in Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos counties, with in-person support groups.

If you are interested in becoming part of this program, visit their website at <https://www.lascumbres-nm.org/grandparents-raising-grandchildren>



	FY24 to Date	Q2	Q1	FY23	Contract to Date
Protect Water Quality					
Storm water control inspections conducted	1,706	715	991	4,721	14,448
Water samples collected	1,868	907	961	3,622	21,385
Hexavalent chromium treated (million gallons) <small>*System shut down 3/31/23 per NMED directive.</small>	0*	0*	0*	41.98*	424.5
Clean Up the Land					
Contaminated soil and debris dispositioned (m ³ = cubic meters)	214.2 m ³	168.2 m ³	46 m ³	3,434 m ³	7,176 m ³
Soil and sediment samples collected	2,316	876	1,440	4,549	13,918
Vapor samples collected	300	205	95	809	3,691
Ship Waste Off-site					
TRU waste shipments to WIPP	11	5	6	59	176
TRU waste volume shipped to WIPP	32.53 m ³	10.65 m ³	21.88 m ³	111.35 m ³	559.14 m ³
Area G mixed/low-level radioactive waste shipped off-site	376.24 m ³	257.56 m ³	118.68 m ³	428.39 m ³	2,831.82 m ³
Other mixed/low-level radioactive waste shipped off-site	247.98 m ³	195.12 m ³	52.86 m ³	3,456.57 m ³	9,958.64 m ³
Hazardous waste shipped off-site	3.76 m ³	0.65 m ³	3.11 m ³	11.17 m ³	277.19 m ³
Other waste streams shipped off-site	217.76 m ³	76.72 m ³	141.04 m ³	367.05 m ³	3,878.49 m ³
Total waste shipped off-site	878.27 m³	540.7 m³	337.57 m³	4,374.53 m³	17,505.28 m³
Business Operations and Stakeholder Engagement					
Meetings with stakeholders	34	22	12	98	326
Amount committed to small business (millions) (N3B only)	\$147.87	\$83.36	\$64.51	\$236.59	\$629.35
Percentage of subcontracts awarded to small business (N3B only)	94.04%	91.12%	98.05%	79.13%	81.68%

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

BTN FY24 Q2 FINAL