

Message from the President



We have gotten fiscal year (FY) 2025 off to a great start, realizing significant cleanup accomplishments and positioning N3B for a bright future ahead as the legacy cleanup contractor at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Under the leadership of CH-TRU Program Manager Brian Clayman and his team, N3B completed an important milestone—completing size reduction activities for the full set of 158 Corrugated Metal Pipes (CMPs) containing transuranic (TRU) waste. As discussed in the coming pages, this effort caps the first retrieval of buried TRU waste here at LANL since 2011, a significant step forward for our cleanup mission. This project was a priority for EM-LA, as well as for the entire EM program nationwide. I want to express my gratitude for all those at N3B who supported the safe execution of this project. Up next is certifying the CMP waste and shipping it to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico. Those efforts will begin in 2025.

Next, N3B’s cleanup accomplishments and work to instill operational excellence across all facets of our work was recognized by DOE in our FY24 fee determination. For FY24, N3B earned \$13,686,992 million, approximately 79% percent of the maximum allowable fee, up from the 77% N3B earned in FY23. N3B’s work to advance the legacy cleanup mission included helping the EM-LA meet its obligations under the 2016 Consent Order, completing the cleanup of the Middle DP Road Site, successfully hosting a demonstration of the Universal Drum Assay and Segregation System, expanding fieldwork in five Aggregate Areas, and continuing to address the legacy waste inventories. In FY25 N3B will build on this track record of success while addressing opportunities for improvement EM-LA identified in its evaluation. [\(Click for FY24 fee determination\)](#)

Finally, DOE exercised the second and final option period in N3B’s contract, keeping N3B as the LANL legacy cleanup contractor through April of 2028. This extension reflects the confidence DOE and EM-LA have in our ability to safely and effectively perform the important legacy cleanup mission. That success rests on the hard work, dedication and accomplishments of the N3B workforce. I am grateful for their commitment to this project and am proud of their many successes. It has not been easy and has been fraught with many challenges, but together we achieved an important milestone.

Many opportunities and challenges lie ahead, and it is important to pause and acknowledge these important milestones. I look forward to the many conversations I will have with the workforce and community as we continue making cleanup progress for the benefit of the residents of Northern New Mexico.

– Brad Smith



Project Update FY25 Q1 FINAL3

Highlights of the Quarter

- ✓ Completed size reduction activities of the 158 CMPs that were previously buried at Technical Area (TA) 54, bringing that phase of the project to a close.
- ✓ Increased to 24/7 operations of the hexavalent chromium interim measures treatment system.
- ✓ Met Consent Order milestone #4, “Annual Progress Report on the Corrective Measures Evaluation for Royal Demolition Explosive in Deep Groundwater;” no other milestones were due in FY25 Q1.
- ✓ Completed vapor sampling at Material Disposal Area (MDA) T.
- ✓ Ran the MDA L soil vapor extraction system for 30 days; the system remediates the subsurface vapor plume.
- ✓ Received Certificates of Completion (COCs) from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for 31 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and nine Areas of Concern (AOCs) in the S-Site Aggregate Area, and for seven AOCs in the Cañon De Valle Aggregate Area. COCs signal the end of remedial actions.
- ✓ Completed environmental remediation at the Chaquehui Canyon Aggregate Area landfill (SWMU 33-008(c)). This SWMU is the first of four in Chaquehui Canyon scheduled for environmental remediation.
- ✓ Completed environmental remediation in the Starmer/Upper Pajarito Aggregate Area, including applying a cold patch at settling tank (SWMU 09-004(c)) and spreading clean fill over subsided potholes at the former septic and settling tanks (SWMUs 09-005(a) and 09-005(g)).
- ✓ Met with Government Accountability Office (GAO) examiners and provided a tour of TA-21, MDA C, MDA H, TA-54, Chaquehui Canyon Aggregate Area, and Twomile Canyon Aggregate Area.
- ✓ Provided a tour of TA-54 for Alyse Huffman, Professional Staff Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources.

2024 Community Commitment

N3B donates 5% of its earned fee to community organizations and workforce development initiatives in Northern New Mexico

- ✓ \$200K was donated to 37 local nonprofit groups and community events
- ✓ 42% of the funds went to groups engaged in STEM and other educational programs
- ✓ 38% supported nonprofits providing health and other human services
- ✓ 11% was devoted to nonprofit arts and culture organizations
- ✓ 9% was spent in support of civic and community groups and events

Community Spotlight: Growing Up New Mexico

N3B continues to sponsor Growing Up New Mexico (GUNM), an organization focused on improving the lives of New Mexicans with support for families with young children. GUNM’s interconnected programs include pre-natal support, in-home visits, parenting classes, education for young children, and one-on-one meetings with caregivers.

For more information on GUNM, see: <https://growingupnm.org/>

CMPs: Below-ground TRU Now Bound for Off-Site Disposal

On December 11, 2024, N3B wrapped up work to prepare 158 CMPs containing TRU waste for disposal at WIPP. The CMPs were filled with cemented radioactive liquid waste that originated from a former Cold War-era treatment facility that operated at Technical Area 21 (TA-21). The CMPs were later moved to Area G and reburied there. Each CMP measured approximately 20 feet long and weighed between 10,000 and 14,000 pounds.

This project started in September 2022 when N3B began excavating and retrieving the CMPs. Once retrieved, each CMP was brought, one at a time, into a facility designed to prevent the release of any contamination into the environment. There, workers cut the CMPs into five sections using a hydraulic shear, resulting in 790 sections of CMPs. Each section was placed in a standard waste box (SWB), and over the coming year, N3B will work with the DOE Carlsbad Field Office to certify the waste and begin shipping the SWBs off-site for final disposal.

N3B will also examine lessons learned and experiences from this project as it prepares to tackle other buried wastes.

“I want to congratulate N3B on this accomplishment. The safe and successful retrieval and size reduction of the CMPs is a significant step forward for the LANL legacy cleanup mission and adds to the growing progress we continue to make in reducing waste inventories here.”

– **Jessica Kunkle**, Manager of the EM Los Alamos Field Office



CMP Team members including DOE’s Field Office Manager, Jessica Kunkle, and Deputy Manager Ellie Gilbertson, along with N3B President and General Manager, Brad Smith, and CH-TRU Program Manager, Brian Clayman in front of 158th and final CMP before it is segmented.



	Q1	FY24	Contract to Date
Protect Water Quality			
Storm water control inspections conducted	990	5,037	18,769
Water samples collected	674	5,300	25,491
Hexavalent chromium treated (million gallons)	13.31	0.03	437.84
Clean Up the Land			
Contaminated soil and debris dispositioned (m³ = cubic meters)	119.59 m³	654.79 m³	7,737 m³
Soil and sediment samples collected	276	5,557	17,435
Vapor samples collected	127	938	4,456
Ship Waste Off-site			
TRU waste shipments to WIPP	2	22	187
TRU waste volume shipped to WIPP	6.4 m³	70.88 m³	589.77 m³
Area G mixed/low-level radioactive waste shipped off-site	0 m³	661.85 m³	3,117.43 m³
Other mixed/low-level radioactive waste shipped off-site	119.38 m³	696.92 m³	10,526.95 m³
Hazardous waste shipped off-site	0.36 m³	3.76 m³	277.56 m³
Other waste streams shipped off-site	55.92 m³	373.76 m³	4,090.41 m³
Total waste shipped off-site	182.06 m³	1,807.17 m³	18,602.12 m³
Business Operations and Stakeholder Engagement			
Meetings with stakeholders	16	83	391
Amount committed to small business (millions) (N3B only)	\$15.31	\$168.51	\$547.76
Percentage of subcontracts awarded to small business (N3B only)	74.76%	91.99%	79.16%

2016 Consent Order Milestones

FY25 - 1 of 11 (10 in progress)	FY24 - 15 of 15	Met 104 of 105 milestones (FY18* - FY24)
*Three FY18 milestones met before N3B contract start.		

BTN FY25 Q1 FINAL3