

New Mexico Acequia Association
LANL Accountability for Water Pollution
Resolution 2007-01

Whereas all people and our community acequias are intricately tied to the health of our rivers and watersheds;

Whereas acequias are the lifeblood of our communities and irrigated lands and acequias maintain a sense of community and are the backbone of our rural economy and culture.;

Whereas acequias are a vital resource for a sustainable future for New Mexico's rural and agricultural communities;

Whereas communities require clean rivers, groundwater, and watersheds to achieve a strong sustainable economy;

Whereas all people that live downstream from Los Alamos National Laboratories require and have a right to clean water for drinking, sacred ceremony, growing food, raising animals, recreation, and overall well-being;

Whereas, for the past 60 plus years, defense research activities at Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL), i.e., explosives testing and chemical and materials science research, have generated an enormous amount of hazardous and radioactive solid and liquid wastes;

Whereas, citizens have the right to know the radionuclide (U-235, 238, Pu, Am, etc.) and carcinogenic levels of contamination that may have entered our stream systems from pollution from Los Alamos National Laboratories,

Whereas, there remain numerous disposal sites at LANL that have the potential to discharge contaminants through storm-water events and that are regulated by the Clean Water Act via a NPDES permit,

Whereas, LANL is required to implement pollution control measures and monitor pollution control sites pursuant to its NPDES permit,

Whereas acequias from throughout the Rio Grande basin and major population centers such as Santa Fe and Albuquerque, are vulnerable to pollution from Los Alamos National Laboratory;

Whereas the New Mexico Acequia Association joined other organizations, an alliance entitled Communities for Clean Water, in filing a historic 60-Day Notice of Intent to Sue the Department of Energy (DOE) for violations of the Clean Water Act at Los Alamos Laboratory (LANL),

Whereas our local, state, and federal government agencies have a duty to protect the public health and welfare by setting and enforcing laws and regulations that protect water resources,

Therefore be it resolved that the Congreso de las Acequias call upon Los Alamos National Laboratories to monitor and clean up toxic waste from past and current LANL activities,

Be it further resolved that the Congreso de las Acequias calls upon the Environmental Protection Agency and the New Mexico Environment Department to enforce regulations and compliance orders for clean up of contaminated sites and to vigorously pursue violations of the Clean Water Act,

Be it further resolved that the Congreso de las Acequias calls upon the Environmental Protection Agency and the New Mexico Environment Department to hold Los Alamos National Laboratories Accountable for contamination of our water.

Be it further resolved that the Congreso de las Acequias supports legal action to enforce provisions of the Clean Water Act against Los Alamos National Laboratory,

Be it further resolved that the Congreso de las Acequias calls upon the New Mexico Congressional delegation to fully fund efforts to monitor and clean up contamination,

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be submitted to Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Environmental Protection Agency, the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, and the New Mexico Environment Department.