**Venting Radioactive Tritium into the Open Air at LANL**

Sample Public Comments - September 10, 2020

Unlike the official public notice LANL mailed out in March 2020, it did not mail a new official notice that it planned to begin releasing radioactive tritium and lead into the air in September. The March notice was a full page describing the request for a temporary authorization to vent from the NM Environment Department, with contacts and links.

Under the NM Environment Department hazardous waste permit for LANL, a person can signed up to receive an email with links to recently posted documents to LANL’s Electronic Public Reading Room (EPRR). On Wednesday, September 9, 2020, some people received an email from the EPRR with links to two documents that stated LANL would be ready to start venting tritium two days later, on September 11, 2020. The public wasn’t given a three-day notice, a ten-day notice, or a two-week notice. This is unacceptable. Normally, a 30-day notice is provided.

Now the public is challenged to respond at a time of harvest, new school schedules, preparations for winter.

On April 1st, 2020, LANL stated in an email to the NM Environment Department, “Venting of the [containers] is postponed indefinitely due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.” The COVID-19 pandemic is not over.

People are still recovering from the smoke and ash from the Medio fire.

In its September 3, 2020 letter to the NM Environment Department, LANL stated the four drums containing radioactive tritium and lead are a “minor, manageable hazard in their current configuration.” Venting tritium (radioactive hydrogen) is dangerous to human health and the environment if inhaled or ingested.

The tritium is in the form of tritiated water. It harms when it is inhaled or ingested. Tritium can cross the placenta and harm the fetus.

Women and children exposed to radiation have a higher cancer risk than men.

**TAKE ACTION!**

Email your comments to the regulatory authorities, your elected officials, the media, and friends and family and ask them to submit comments.

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<https://www.governor.state.nm.us/contact-the-governor/>

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**ACTION ALERT: Stop Radioactive Releases at Los Alamos National Laboratory at** <https://tewawomenunited.org/2020/09/action-alert-stop-radioactive-releases-at-los-alamos-national-laboratory>

See *A Tewa Woman’s Reflection on Urgency,* by Beata Tsosie, Environmental Health and Justice Program Coordinator at Tewa Women United. <https://tewawomenunited.org/2017/11/a-tewa-womens-reflection-on-urgency>

*Talking Points: Healthy from the Start: Campaign to Include Women, Children, and Future Generations in Environmental Health Standards* by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research. <https://ieer.org/projects/healthy-from-the-start/>