**Comments due November 6, 2023 by 5 pm MT**

Ms. Neelam Dhawan

NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau

2905 Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1

Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505-6303

By email: [neelam.dhawan@env.nm.gov](mailto:neelam.dhawan@env.nm.gov)

Re: Comments about New Mexico Environment Department Public Notice No. 23-08

NMED Statement of Basis for Selection of Remedy for Corrective Action at

Material Disposal Area C (MDA C) at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

Dear Ms. Dhawan:

I am in full support of the recommendation of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to excavate the 11.8-acre unlined Material Disposal Area C, or MDA C, at LANL.

NMED stated in its Statement of Basis in support of excavation: “For maximum protection of public and environmental health and safety, and to ensure that the drinking water resource can be conservatively protected, NMED has determined that … excavation, plume monitoring, and institutional controls, along with a passive and active soil-vapor extraction system at MDA C to remove the waste and eliminate the VOC contaminate source detected in soil [ ], is the most appropriate cleanup measure.”

LANL successfully excavated the oldest radioactive waste dump at LANL, called MDA B, on DP Road. LANL received $110 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to excavate the Manhattan Project era dump. LANL used large moveable tents under negative pressure and HEPA filtration so that earthmovers and other large equipment removed the waste from the deep trenches. The wastes were then characterized and disposed of in appropriate facilities.

One MDA B cleanup report described the planning, challenges and surprises encountered. It concluded that, “The one area where planning did not fail to meet reality was safety. There were no serious worker injuries and the minor injuries recorded were those common to construction type activities.” LANL knows how to safely clean up its messes. *Oppenheimer’s Box of Chocolates: Remediation of the Manhattan Project Landfill at Los Alamos National Laboratory.* <https://inis.iaea.org/search/search.aspx?orig_q=RN:45115088>

I agree with NMED that excavation of MDA C is the most appropriate cleanup measure and it will protect the drinking water aquifer now and into the future.

Sincerely,