**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

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

Support for NMED’s Recommendation to Excavate 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 determined in its September 2023 Statement of Basis that “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.” I support the need to protect the regional drinking water aquifer NOW.

LANL’s preferred plan includes installation of an evapotranspiration, or ET, cover on top of the unlined dump with “institutional controls” to monitor the groundwater for 100 years. We already know that volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been detected under the dump 600 feet below ground surface. What would happen after 100 years? The contamination would continue to migrate to the regional drinking water aquifer. LANL should withdraw its preferred cleanup plan. Excavating MDA C will protect the aquifer NOW and for the future.

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

Sincerely,