

REGIONAL COALITION OF LANL COMMUNITIES

CITY OF ESPAÑOLA – LOS ALAMOS COUNTY – RIO ARRIBA COUNTY
SANTA FE COUNTY – CITY OF SANTA FE – TAOS COUNTY

FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

In 2011, the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities was formally established. Members include elected officials from six neighboring cities and counties directly affected by site activities. At other DOE facilities, local government coalitions have partnered with the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Congress, contractors, regulatory agencies, and community members to solve the many complex technical and policy challenges facing DOE and NNSA as they remediate facilities and expand their missions to meet tomorrow’s challenges. The Regional Coalition builds upon these many successes, and brings to northern New Mexico a regional governmental organization focused on the shared goals of ensuring a compliant cleanup and maintaining long-term, stable funding that supports jobs and the regional economy.

LANL is the largest employer in northern New Mexico.

County	Wages	Jobs
Los Alamos	\$609,074,786	4,641
Santa Fe	\$264,184,670	2,206
Rio Arriba	\$138,502,367	1,635
Sandoval	\$39,780,471	416
Bernalillo	\$24,835,932	290
Taos	\$13,323,454	153
All Others	\$185,921,081	4,246
TOTALS	\$1,275,622,761	13,587

Total NNM procurement = \$390 M
Total NM procurement = \$528 M
Total procurement = \$918 M

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Regional Coalition is rooted in the experience that by coming together to proactively address issues, the governments are better poised to define the public interest and to, in turn, work with DOE, NNSA, contractors, and Congress to ensure national policies protect and promote local interests. Regional partnerships such as the Regional Coalition strengthen the decisions-making process by (1) identifying solutions that help align national, regional and local interests, and (2) ensuring local government buy-in to decisions on the front end, thereby reducing disputes that later cost the federal government time and money.

TRIBAL PARTICIPATION & MEMBERSHIP

The Regional Coalition continues to actively seek tribal governments’ participation in Coalition activities. While none have yet become official members, Governors and other tribal representatives attend meetings, including meetings in Washington, D.C. Further, the Joint Powers Agreement, the legal document creating the organization, is structured to allow the Pueblos to join the Regional Coalition on a timeline that works best for tribal councils.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities is to:

1. Advocate for diverse and sustainable LANL missions,
2. Address the environmental, economic, and other opportunities of LANL, and
3. Serve as a focal point for communication, advocacy and education regarding LANL.

GOALS

In support of the mission, the Regional Coalition adopted the following goals:

1. Engage LANL, DOE, state of New Mexico and others on site issues
2. Increase the communities' voice, including state and federal legislative advocacy
3. Discuss and proactively address issues, and strategize on how to meet regional needs
4. Identify and support economic opportunities to promote LANL activities off-site
5. Ensure site activities and cleanup protect human health and the environment

FEDERAL INVESTMENT = HUGE RETURNS TO TAXPAYERS

As shown at Rocky Flats (Colorado) and Mound (Ohio), upfront investments in regional, governmental partnerships yield significant returns for the taxpayer. At Rocky Flats, for instance, DOE provided the local government organization approximately \$300,000/year for seven years. In return, DOE was able to proactively resolve complex technical and policy issues. As the U.S. Government Accountability Office recognized, resolving those issues with local elected officials was part of the reason Rocky Flats closed years early, saving the taxpayer billions of dollars. Mound realized similar savings through its investments with local governments.

REGIONAL COALITION AND THE CAB

Community engagement is critical, and the Regional Coalition believes in the importance and value of the LANL Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). While the CAB plays an important role in cleanup issues, it was never intended to be a substitute for direct local governmental involvement. Local governments are charged with the health, safety and welfare of their communities – and as elected representatives, that mandate requires directly engaging on LANL's economic and environmental issues. LANL's decisions directly affect governmental responsibilities, and the Regional Coalition's work is a critical step in meeting those responsibilities. The Regional Coalition supports continued full funding for the CAB.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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