



Los Alamos National Laboratory Legacy Cleanup By the Numbers

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), located in Los Alamos, New Mexico, was established in 1943 as Site Y of the Manhattan Project for a single purpose: to design and build an atomic bomb. It took just 20 months to detonate the world's first atomic bomb 200 miles south of Los Alamos at the Trinity Site on the Alamogordo bombing range. The Department of Energy's Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) investigates hazardous chemical and radioactive materials contamination as a result of past LANL operations and remediates sites where such materials are found above acceptable regulatory levels. This is known as the legacy cleanup mission.

Cleanup locations include sites of former LANL buildings, hillsides, canyon bottoms, and old landfills. Mission activities include surface and groundwater monitoring and remediation, removing contaminated soil, and decontaminating and decommissioning surplus process-contaminated buildings. Cleanup of contaminated sites follows the requirements of the 2016 Compliance Order on Consent with the New Mexico Environment Department.

Additionally, EM-LA retrieves, remediates, packages, and disposes of radioactive waste. Most low level and mixed low level waste is transported from LANL and disposed of in commercial licensed facilities, while transuranic (TRU) waste is disposed of at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, located in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

2,100 contaminated sites were originally identified for action, ranging from small spills to large landfills.

90% of initial investigations completed of the remaining sites.

>1/2 of legacy cleanup has been completed.

Demolition of **28** buildings, installation of 1 regional groundwater monitoring well, and remediation of Material Disposal Areas in Technical Area 21 have been completed.

Treatment of **60** remediating nitrate salt drums completed in November 2017, while the treatment of **27** unremediating nitrate salt drums completed in March 2018. The drums will be shipped offsite for disposal.

93% of the legacy TRU waste stored above ground has been removed. Over 4,000 above-ground TRU waste containers have been removed in recent years as a result.

A network of **35** monitoring, extraction and injections wells has been installed in and around the chromium plume at LANL. These wells and associated infrastructure support the efforts to characterize the plume and to halt the plume's movement via an Interim Measure.

115 legacy cleanup sites were identified across what is now the Los Alamos townsite on private property, Los Alamos County property, and DOE property adjacent to Los Alamos Canyon. The last planned cleanup of these legacy sites in the Los Alamos townsite was completed in July 2017.



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