An email to the Exchange Monitor on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024, from a spokesperson for the Department of Energy's environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office

"Per the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the revised 2016 Consent Order is to be signed by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) within 30 days of August 30, 2024. DOE and NMED are currently in discussions for the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) Appendix B, which will contain Milestones, and Appendix C, which will contain the list of Campaigns (Appendix C).

DOE is satisfied to have settled the litigation with NMED. DOE is committed to continuing its legacy cleanup mission under the revised 2016 Consent Order. The revised 2016 Consent Order will be effective upon both parties signing.

The revised 2016 Consent Order has several improvements, including a new section on Public Participation, which recognizes current public engagements EM-LA regularly conducts. The revision also includes a schedule by which NMED is required to complete its review of documents submitted by DOE. NMED's timely review and approval of these documents are crucial to advance the legacy cleanup.

It should also be noted that the Settlement Agreement DOES NOT include a "civil penalty". Per the terms of the Settlement Agreement, DOE is to submit \$333,000 to NMED for payment to the Hazardous Waste Emergency Fund within 90 days. Paragraph 7 of the Settlement Agreement states that this Settlement Agreement "does not constitute and shall not be construed as an admission of any wrongdoing, noncompliance, or liability on the part of DOE or any contractor acting at DOE's direction."