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National Nuclear Security Administration Holds Employee and Retiree Benefit Plan Meetings

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) will host a series of poster board meetings at which the Lab's new contractor, Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) will present Los Alamos National Laboratory employees with the pension/benefits plan it is proposing. NNSA will take comments on whether the proposed plan meets the "substantially equivalent" requirement of the LANS contract.

The meetings will be held on the following dates at the times and locations listed:

February 16 Los Alamos 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. LANL Auditorium

Los Alamos 6 – 8 p.m. Los Alamos High School

February 21 Santa Fe 6 – 8 p.m. TBD

February 22 Espanola 6 – 8 p.m. TBD

The LANS contract requires the company to hire all current lab employees except for certain senior managers. It also requires LANS to provide "a total compensation package for transferring employees that is substantially equivalent" to that provided by the current contractor.

Representatives from LANS will explain to employees, retirees and the community how their plan compares to the existing UC pension/benefits plan. Attendees can submit comments to the NNSA. Comments will be accepted on index cards during the briefings and by e-mail at: inputonlansbenefits@doeal.gov. NNSA will collect and consolidate the comments received and determine if changes to the LANS pension/benefit plan are necessary. The proposed new pension/benefits plan will be posted on the LANL, LANS, and NNSA transition web sites on February 14. The comment period will run from February 14-24.

Once the comment period is over and comments have been received and considered the NNSA will make a determination whether the LANS pension/benefit package is substantially equivalent to the existing UC pension/benefits plan by March 7, 2006.

The schedule for the meetings and comment period ensures that employees have a full 60 days to consider their options once the pension/benefit plan has been approved.

Information pertinent to employees for making an informed employment decision will be posted on the LANL, LANS, and NNSA transition web sites. In addition, the web sites will also have telephone numbers where employees can call to have any questions answered. The LANL employees' meeting will be videotaped and made available to any employee who desires a copy. It will also be rebroadcast on LabNet through May 15, 2006.