



Communities for Clean Water

WHO WE ARE:

Communities for Clean Water (CCW) is the only Northern New Mexican community-based organization that brings together the vast expertise and commitment of grass-roots organizations and individuals — indigenous and European-descendant — that have been studying and monitoring toxic threats from LANL, some for as long as 26 years. CCW is a coalition of widely respected, well-tested, and award-winning advocacy groups that have proven their professionalism and commitment to the best interests of Northern New Mexico's peoples, cultures, environment and well-being.

Communities for Clean Water Council members include Amigos Bravos, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS), Honor Our Pueblo Existence (HOPE), the New Mexico Acequia Association, Partnership for Earth Spirituality and Tewa Women United.

CCW brings together these organizations for a collective and powerful impact on protecting and restoring water quality downstream and downwind from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). CCW serves diverse multicultural communities downstream and downwind of and adjacent to LANL, including those of the Espanola Valley, member organizations from tribal communities, the City and County of Santa Fe, and the City of Albuquerque.

VISION:

The vision of Communities for Clean Water is that all people, wildlife and ecosystems downstream and downwind from Los Alamos National Laboratory have safe, clean and pure water for drinking, for irrigation, for sacred ceremony and for a sustainable and just economy. We envision Los Alamos National Laboratory developing clean, innovative and life-affirming science and world-class technology benefitting the regional and national economy, health and well being of all.

MISSION:

The mission of Communities for Clean Water is to ensure that community waters impacted by Los Alamos National Laboratory are kept safe for drinking, agriculture, sacred ceremonies and a sustainable future.

CCW GOALS:

1. Create and maintain a broad, community-based movement.
2. Build capacity within impacted communities and the Youth Council to address pollution from LANL
3. Protect precious water resources from contamination now and for future generations.
4. Hold local, state and federal regulators accountable to use their regulatory and enforcement powers and fulfill their public trust responsibilities to hold LANL accountable.
5. Hold LANL and those degrading the environment accountable for water contamination.
6. Ensure the highest possible level of cleanup at contaminated sites.

HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Communities for Clean Water (CCW) was formally organized in 2006 after several community organizations joined forces to address water contamination at LANL, and has been successful at holding LANL accountable by:

- Greatly increasing the public's and public officials' awareness of the extent of toxic contamination at LANL and the failure of LANL to implement effective cleanup;
- Negotiating terms of EPA-issued stormwater and wastewater permits;
- Maintaining oversight of state and federal permit implementation
- Creating dialogue and information-sharing on LANL issues between all 19 New Mexico Pueblos, the Apache Tribes, and the Navajo Nation,
- Raising awareness of LANL's potential impact on the Buckman Diversion Project (which provides 40% of the drinking water to the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County), leading the Buckman Board to challenge LANL's assertions that there would be no impact;
- Ensuring one of the strongest individual stormwater permits in the country, requiring LANL to halt migration of toxins at 400 of the worst sites at the Lab within 5 years, with 63 of the "worst of the worst" sites required to be completed in 3 years;
- Negotiating an historic citizen Clean Water Act lawsuit and forcing LANL to deal with stormwater problems and meet its permit obligations; and
- Establishing a CCW Youth Council to develop leadership within the next generation