Security enhanced with increased vehicle inspections

March 23, 2012

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, March 23, 2012—Los Alamos National Laboratory began implementing several changes to its security procedures on Friday, March 16.

The most prominent change is the increase of random inspections of all vehicles transiting the Laboratory, to include West and East Jemez Roads and roadways leading to the main Laboratory administrative area, Technical Area 3.

The changes are a result of recommendations made during a recent review of Laboratory protective measures by a joint Department of Defense and Department of Energy security assessment.

"We have always had the ability to do random inspections," said Jack Killeen, Security Services division leader. "We have expanded the areas for those random inspections and increased their frequency. Drivers will see an increased presence of the Protective Force — our uniformed security officers — and we'll be using bomb-sniffing

dogs."Everyone, including members of the public, who enter the Laboratory through the East and West Jemez Road Vehicle Access Portals and the East Jemez Road vehicle inspection area (at the corner of East Jemez and NM Highway-4) is subject to these inspections and asked to cooperate with the Protective Force if selected for a vehicle inspection.

Drivers may refuse to submit to a vehicle inspection, and if so, will be denied access to lab property and rerouted around the Laboratory via West Road or NM-4.

Laboratory employees headed to work are reminded that certain prohibited articles are not allowed on Laboratory property, even in personal vehicles. Those items include nongovernment-owned firearms, alcoholic beverages, other dangerous weapons and explosives, and illegal substances.

Employees in possession of prohibited articles may be required to return home to remove those items from their vehicle before being allowed to return to work. Any suspected illegal activity will be reported to the Los Alamos Police Department.

"We're doing our best to meet our security objectives while minimizing impacts on local businesses and tourists," said Killeen. "The inspections take a short amount of time, so we expect the inconvenience to be minimal."

Los Alamos National Laboratory **www.lanl.gov** **(505) 667-7000** **Los Alamos, NM**

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