



# Regional Coalition of LANL Communities

## **RCLC Statement Regarding DNFSB Order 140.1**

**Submitted February 21, 2019**

The Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (RCLC) is an alliance of nine local governments in north central New Mexico that are directly affected by Los Alamos National Laboratory. Members of the RCLC Board, who also serve as elected leaders in their respective communities, expressed uncertainty over the implications of Order 140.1 on the ability of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) to maintain effective oversight and review of Department of Energy (DOE) facilities.

In particular, the RCLC communities are uncertain about the possible loss of on-site access and oversight of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) facility near our communities. The RCLC understands that at the November 28, 2018, DNFSB hearing, DOE stated that DNFSB would still have access to sites. Yet the language of the order implies that any such access could be constricted by DOE/NNSA and other entities definition of risk, and restriction of access to category 1-3 sites. Members of the RCLC request that any rewrite of this order include clarification to ensure DNFSB maintains oversight authority at these sites, as the activities at these sites can directly affect our communities.

In addition, RCLC members have expressed concerns over the proposed restriction of access to pre-decisional information, as this information may include issues that are pertinent to the neighboring communities. Such restrictions would make it impossible for the DNFSB to provide input into DOE decisions that directly affect our citizens' lives. I ask for clarification on whether this provision changes the DNFSB's authority to access the information it needs to fulfill its oversight mission.