

The Department of Energy (DOE)/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) issued the FINAL Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Management and Operating contract on October 26. Bid proposals are due December 11.

The most significant change in this LANL RFP from the RFP of ten years ago when LANL was last put up for bid, is the restructuring of the contract to be largely a fixed-fee contract, with the fixed fee capped at 1%. There is also an award fee, capped at 0.5% in the DRAFT RFP, issued on July 13. All the verbiage about Performance-Based Incentive (PBI) bonuses that was in the former LANL and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) RFPs is now completely gone. Since the principal thrust of the University Professional and Technical Employees' (UPTE) ten-year campaign for labs de-privatization was that the PBI bonuses were the root cause of the labs' problems, we are very pleased to see this change, and we said so to DOE/NNSA. One of our principal motivations for meeting with them in September was to stiffen their spines against considerable push back they were getting from potential for-profit bidders and from New Mexico elected officials to preserve the old fee structure. Hence, we are pleased to report that the FINAL LANL RFP does preserve the fixed-fee cap of 1%. The bad news, though, is that the award fee cap was increased to 1.5% in the FINAL from 0.5% in the DRAFT. On a better note DOE/NNSA honored UPTE's request to put in a specific requirement for the new contractor to keep the Los Alamos National Security (LANS) TCP-1 and TCP-2 retirement plans; and, as we urged them to do, they added a whole new subsection definitively defining "organizational culture change" as prioritizing safety. Details of UPTE's analysis of the FINAL LANL RFP, and how it differs from the DRAFT, can be found here at <http://deprivatizethelabs.org/>.

Surprise Ruling in Retiree Health Care Lawsuit

There was a surprise ruling in the class action lawsuit in which LLNL retirees are seeking to return to University of California health care. On Monday, November 27, an Oakland court reversed the "class" certification of the lawsuit. [Click here to view the full article.](#)

Continued Safety Concerns at Los Alamos National Laboratory

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board is keeping a close eye on the new LANL radioactive storage facility as operations ramp up. The board reports that limits placed on the amount of material and container types will provide adequate protection of public health and safety for the near term. [Click here to view the full article.](#)

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