



# **County of Los Alamos**

## **Minutes**

### **Board of Public Utilities**

1000 Central Avenue  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

*Robert Gibson, Chair; Matt Heavner, Vice Chair*  
*Eric Stromberg,, Charles Nakhleh and Jennifer Hollingsworth, Members*  
*Philo Shelton, Ex Officio Member*  
*Anne Laurent, Ex Officio Member*  
*Ryn Herrmann, Council Liaison*

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Wednesday, February 18, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

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**Public Participation ~ in person or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82180323960>**

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

This regular meeting of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Board of Public Utilities was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members of the public were notified of the ability to participate and provide public comment in-person, remotely, or via email.

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The following board members were in attendance:

Present - 6: Members Gibson, Heavner, Stromberg, Hollingsworth, Shelton and Laurent

Remote - 0:

Absent - 1: Member Nakhleh

\*\*\*\*\*

Others in attendance in Chambers:

Vice Chair Ryn Herrmann, Council Liaison

Mr. Thomas Wymann, Assistant County Attorney

Mr. James Alarid, Deputy Utility Manager - Engineering

Mr. Clay Moseley, Deputy Utility Manager - GWS Services

Mr. Dennis Astley, Acting Deputy Utility Manager - Electrical Distribution

Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply

Ms. Joann Gentry, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration

Ms. Cathy D'Anna, Public Relations Manager

Ms. Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant

Mr. Richard Valerio, Business Operations Manager

Ms. Paula Nelson, Management Analyst

Mr. Zac Parlman, IM Technical Support Specialist

Zoom participants:

1. James Martinez, DPU Senior Engineer

2. David Reagor, Citizen

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment on the Consent Agenda or those not otherwise included on the agenda. There was none

**No action was taken on this item.**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Gibson asked board members for amendments to the agenda, discussion or a motion.

1. Member Gibson requested that item 4.b. be moved from the Consent to Department Business as the first item.

Chair Gibson then called for further discussion or a motion.

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**Member Stromberg moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the agenda be approved as amended.**

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**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Stromberg, and Gibson**

**NO - 0:**

**ABSENT - 1: Member Nakhleh**

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Gibson asked board members for further amendments to the consent agenda, discussion or a motion.

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**Member Stromberg moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the consent agenda be approved as amended.**

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**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Stromberg, and Gibson**

**NO - 0:**

**ABSENT: Member Nakhleh**

4.a. Approval of Board of Public Utilities Meeting Minutes - January 2026

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the minutes of the January 15, 2025 Regular Session as presented.

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

None scheduled.

**No action was taken on this item.**

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None scheduled.

**No action was taken on this item.**

**7. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS**

4.b. Approval of Budget Revision No. 2026-41 for Task Order No. 4 with Souder Miller & Associates under AGR22-67b for Potable Water Storage Tank Inspection and Maintenance Services

Mr. James Alarid, Deputy Utility Manager - Engineering presented. Chair Gibson provided

an opportunity for comments or questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Gibson

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for Public Comment; there was none. He then called for additional discussion or motion.

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**Member Hollingsworth moved and Member Heavner seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve Task Oder No. 4 with Souder Miller & Associates under AGR22-67b for Potable Water Storage Tank Inspection and Maintenance Services in the amount of \$149,212 plus applicable GRT and including a 15% project contingency, and recommend Budget Revision 2026-41 in the amount of \$185,441.00, and forward to Council for approval.**

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**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Stromberg, and Gibson**

**NO - 0:**

**ABSENT: Member Nakhleh**

7.a.

#### Presentation of the DPU FY2027 Budget

Ms. Joann Gentry, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration presented.

Supporting documents were included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Gibson - Electric Production Fund question
2. Mr. Ben Olbrich responded
3. Member Gibson - Electric Distribution Fund question
4. Mr. Ben Olbrich responded
5. Member Heavner - Gas Distribution Fund question
6. Ms. Gentry responded
7. Mr. Philo Shelton responded
8. Member Hollingsworth - Gas Distribution Fund question
9. Mr. Philo Shelton responded
- No questions regarding Water Distribution Fund*
10. Member Gibson - Water Production Fund question
11. Ms. Gentry responded
- No questions regarding Wastewater Treatment & Collection Fund*
- No questions regarding Administrative Fund*
- No questions regarding FTE Summary*
- No questions regarding CIP Summary*
- No questions regarding Revenue Transfer Budget Option*
12. Mr. Shelton commented on Revenue Transfer
13. Member Gibson - Ten Year Forecast Electric Utility question
14. Ms. Gentry responded
15. Member Gibson - Reserve Targets question
16. Ms. Gentry responded
17. Member Gibson - Ten-Year Fund Forecasts questions
18. Ms. Gentry responded
- No questions regarding Gas Fund graph*
- No questions regarding Water Distribution Fund graph*
- No questions regarding Water Production Fund graph*
- No questions regarding Wastewater Fund graph*

Mr. Richard Valerio then presented the Debt Coverage Ratio 2027 - 2036. Chair Gibson

provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Hollingsworth - ReserveTarget question
2. Ms. Gentry responded
3. Mr. Shelton responded
4. Member Gibson - Debt Ratio question
5. Ms. Gentry will research and provide additional information
6. Mr. Shelton responded
7. Member Gibson - Electric Distribution grant question
8. Mr. Astley responded

Ms. Gentry continued the presentation and discussed the Schedule of Funds. When the budget presentation concluded Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Heavner
2. Mr. Shelton
3. Member Gibson
4. Mr. Shelton

**No action was taken on this item. The budget will be presented in March for approval.**

- 7.b. Approval of Task Order No.3, AGR24-04d for the Purpose of White Rock Substation Transformer Project with Sanbros Corp. in the Amount of \$299,719.24, plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the Term of 120 Days

Mr. Dennis Astley, Acting Deputy Utility Manager - Electric Distribution presented. Supporting documents were included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg
2. Member Hollingsworth
3. Member Gibson

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for Public Comment; there was none. He then called for additional discussion or motion.

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**Member Stromberg moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve Task Order No.3, AGR24-04d for the Purpose of White Rock Substation Transformer Project with Sanbros Corp. in the Amount of \$299,719.24, plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the Term of 120 days.**

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The motion passed by the following vote:

**YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Stromberg, and Gibson**

**NO - 0:**

**ABSENT - 1: Member Nakhleh**

## **8. BOARD BUSINESS**

### 8.a. Chair's Report

Chair Gibson spoke:

1. He thanked Vice Chair Heavner for running the last meeting.

2. He reminded members to inform Ms.Casados of upcoming travel and BPU meeting availability.

Chair Gibson provided the opportunity for comments or questions from the board. There were none.

**No action was taken on this item.**

#### 8.b. Board Member's Reports

There were none

**No action was taken on this item.**

#### 8.c. Utilities Manager's Report

Mr. Philo Shelton reviewed his report which was included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments or questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg
2. Mr. Olbrich
3. Member Gibson
4. Member Stromberg
5. Member Hollingsworth

**No action was taken on this item.**

#### 8.d. County Manager's Report

Ms. Anne Laurent provided highlights from the recent Council Meetings/Work Sessions.

1. Closing Aquatic Center except for Leisure Lagoon.
2. Bid out for Fire Station 4 - will rebuild next to existing structure.
3. Council has Special Meeting with the LAPS Board on February 26th.
4. LAC is in the final stages of selling bonds for the broadband project.
5. CMO recently met with Tim Walsh, DOE - Mr. Shelton joined them.
6. March 23 staff from the CMO's office will be in Washington, D.C.
7. NMED was fined by DOE-EM.

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. There were none.

**No action was taken on this item.**

#### 8.e. Council Liaison's Report

Vice Chair Herrmann provided highlights from the February 17th Council Meeting:

1. Recognized F&A for continued accomplishments.
2. Short term PPA approved.
3. Passed bonds for broadband.

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. There were none

**No action was taken on this item.**

#### 8.f. Environmental Sustainability Board Liaison's Report

Both Ms. Sue Barns and Ms. Shannon Blair were out of town. No written report was

submitted.

**No action was taken on this item.**

8.g. General Board Business

8.g.1. Appointment of Board Member to County Audit Committee for 2026

Chair Gibson introduced the topic *(Member Heavner shared that he was the BPU representative for the audit committee for Fiscal Year 2025. He summarized his involvement and shared kudos to everyone involved in the audit. Only two meetings and reading.*

Chair Gibson called for volunteers or nominations to serve on the committee. The following board members spoke:

1. Member Hollingsworth volunteered.

Chair Gibson then asked members whether he could appoint a member rather than call for a motion. Members agreed to an appointment.

**Chair Gibson appointed Member Hollingsworth to fill the vacant position on the County's Audit Committee and appoint them for remainder of Calendar Year 2025. He further recommended that the Utilities Manager notify the Chief Financial Officer of the nominee.**

8.h. Board Expenses

None.

**No action was taken on this item.**

**9. STATUS REPORTS**

9.a. Status Reports - January

Chair Gibson opened the floor for comments and questions on the status reports. There were none

**No action was taken on this item.**

**10. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

10.a. Tickler File: March - June

Chair Gibson opened the floor for comments and questions on the tickler. The following individuals spoke:

1. Mr. Shelton
2. Member Stromberg
3. Member Hollingsworth

CORRECTIONS TO TICKLER:

1. March 4th - remove UAMPS Presentation
2. EV Plan delayed to April Regular Meeting
3. Remove Broadband item
4. Gibson will be remote for April 1st. - delay performance planning to April 15 and final to May 6th.

5. Member Hollingsworth will be on travel the week of April 15th and will be absent from the BPU Regular meeting. .

NEW ITEMS FOR TICKLER:

1. March 4th - Add a Budget Review item.

Chair Gibson reminded Vice Chair Heavner that they would meet with Mr. Shelton on Friday, February 27 to review the tickler and agenda items for March.

**No action was taken on this item.**

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment on any topic. There were none .

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.**

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**APPROVAL**

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**Board of Public Utilities Chair**

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**Date Approved by the Board**

**Minutes transcribed by: Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant**

**ATTACHMENTS**

**(in agenda order):**

**7.b. Schematic of Proposed SCADA Location**

**8.c. Utilities Manager Report 2/18/26**



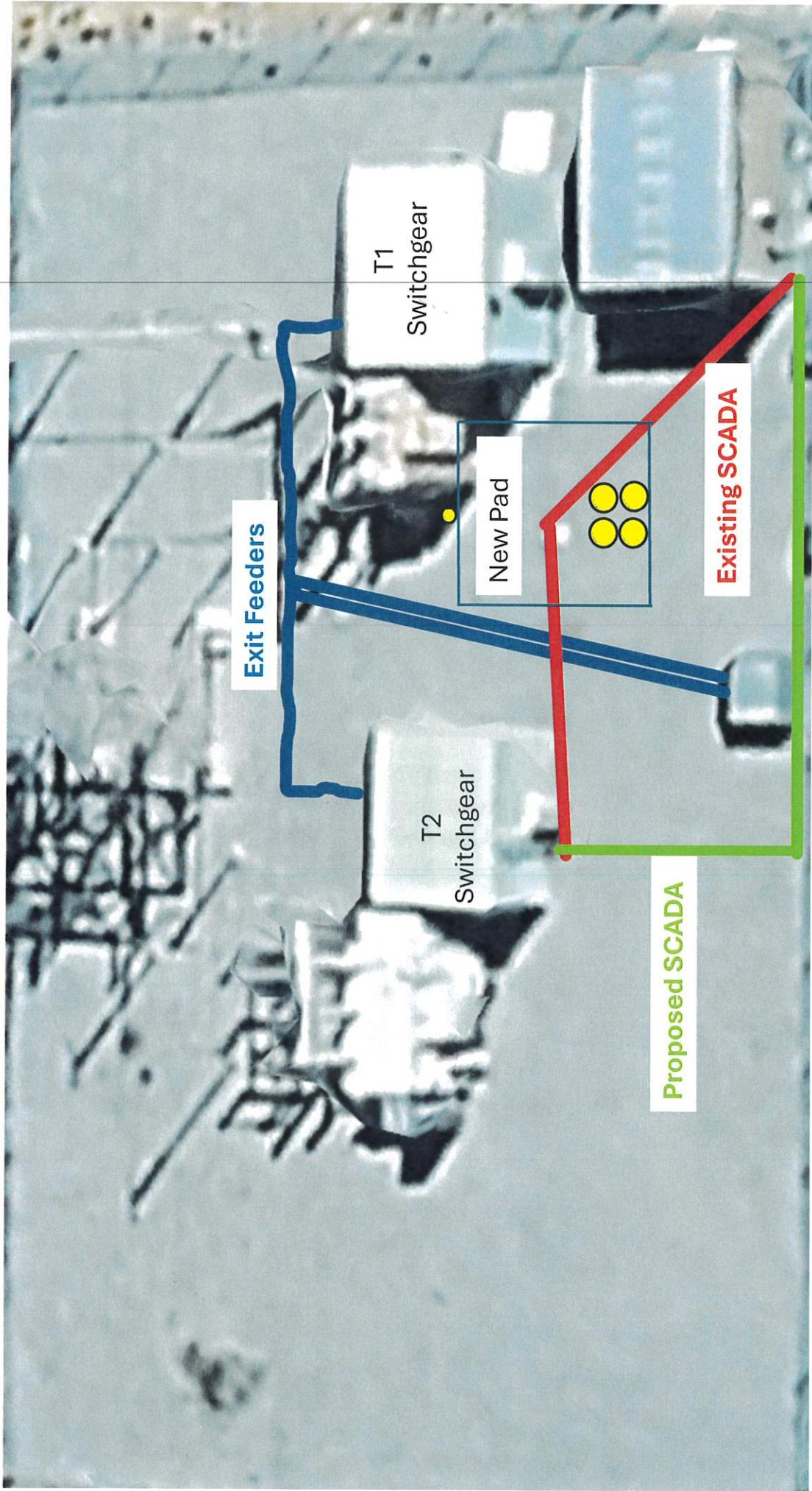
# BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

## ADDITIONAL MEETING DOCUMENTS

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Additional or revised information or documents are often distributed to members at the meetings. Whenever possible, this informational cover page will accompany those documents.

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	February 18, 2026 - Regular Meeting
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	7.b. Approval of Task Order No.3, AGR24-04d for the Purpose of White Rock Substation Transformer Project with Sanbros Corp. in the Amount of \$299,719.24, plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the Term of 120 Days
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	B – Schematic of Proposed SCADA Location
<b>NEW OR REVISED?</b> Is this a revision that is different from what was in the agenda packet, or is it something entirely new?	NEW Attachment B
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION</b> If you have a new or revised recommended motion for the Board, enter it here.	Same as included in packet.
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b> Please VERY BRIEFLY explain the purpose of this information or document.	



T1  
Switchgear

New Pad

Existing SCADA

T2  
Switchgear

Proposed SCADA

Exit Feeders

**Utilities Manager's Report**  
**February 18, 2026**

1. The Sanbros task order will reroute control conduits and prepare the site for the foundation's five-caisson installation. The caisson work is out to bid again since the initial solicitation did not result in a bid. Once these foundation elements are constructed, we can finalize the schedule to complete this transformer installation. The new transformer's containment vessel and the transformer are ready to ship. For the tie line, LANL has mobilized to install poles on their side of SR-4. DPU has installed the transformer and the three voltage regulators.
2. For Elk Ridge, CID's Mobile Home section has issued most of the green tags required for the project. The challenge remaining is having the homeowner present to make the final connections to the new system where we have 22 homes completed to date. Today we discussed with Elk Ridge again emphasizing having Cartwright available after work hours, on Fridays and on Saturdays when homeowners are present to make these final connections.
3. Recruitment status: DPU is interviewing a Customer Care Specialist and Senior Management analyst. Timo Martinez accepted the Electric Distribution Line Person Supervisor and DPU is currently recruiting for a Lineperson. Other openings are for an Deputy Utility Manager for Engineering, Electrician, Engineering Project Manager, Water Operator, and Engineering Aid for utility locates.
4. DPU is actively negotiating the new ECA and holding several meetings, and we have engaged Kutak Rock to help us with reviewing of this agreement and assure agreement protections that the existing ECA has will continue into the new agreement. Staff have worked with NNSA site office and their consultant Exeter on the 10-yr contract value that will be attached to the new ECA. Kutak Rock and County staff have a meeting scheduled for next Wednesday with DOE attorneys to discuss proposed agreement protections. In the meantime, DPU has asked NNSA/DOE for another 90-day extension on the current ECA, so we can continue to negotiate and finalize a new agreement. Therefore, there will be future agenda items to extend the current ECA and another short-term power purchase agreement to parallel with the 90-day extension.
5. The Jemez Fire Protection Project phase II segment is nearing completion with a final round of paving scheduled for next week. Pajarito LLC has been billed for the second \$1 million in compliance with the development agreement. Staff are preparing to bid on the last phase of the project this month. It is unlikely that the FEMA grant will come through for the electric portion of the project and once the bid results are obtained, staff will most likely recommend we proceed with the project without the FEMA funding. The County and Pajarito LLC will share 50-50 in these project costs, and this will allow for the project to be delivered on time for delivering water up to the mountain to make snow next season. The project budget is \$18.9 million, and staff are estimating that the work should come in on budget. A special rate for delivery of water will need to be established because of the additional energy needed to raise this water up to the base of the mountain.

6. For Foxtail Flats the final COD remains on June 18, 2027. This leaves 12 calendar days of float remaining in their contracted schedule. Partial mobilization is underway, they have had a team upgrading the road on site since early January, and a cultural team has been on site flagging sites in advance of full mobilization. Full site mobilization is scheduled for April 30, 2026.
7. For UAMPS, they are also in the middle of preparing their budget. The Geothermal projects are still on hold because both projects need transmission access from Pacific Corp. However, Rodatherm has begun to dig their pilot geothermal well with no cost share to the project required.
8. For Chromium Plume, NMED has filed a lawsuit on NNSA. This fact has suspended the Working Group meetings. The lawsuit is concerned with the pace of the cleanup and finding chromium concentrations above NMED 50 ppb threshold on the Pueblo de San Ildefonso. On March 4<sup>th</sup> NMED will present the adaptive site management process to BPU and provide any project updates. I am not sure how this new development will impact the timeline to restart the interim measure with one extraction well at 60 GPM and its land application.
9. The 18-inch water production line in Two Mile Canyon, staff have submitted the permit to LANL and plan to submit the Army Corp permit next week. This will be a difficult project to repair because of access to the canyon bottom. Staff are working with our on-call contractor to cost the project, and a task order and budget revision will be presented next month to BPU.
10. The contract awarded tonight to Souder Miller will complete the remaining 18 items identified for correction in the sanitary survey on our drinking water system.
11. PM-4 and PM-5 wells are under well-head control upgrades, and we anticipate getting these wells going within the next month and obtain raw water samples from these wells for PFAS. The class action settlement extended sampling deadline until March 31<sup>st</sup> for PFAS. The only well that cannot be sampled is PM-3.
12. DPU staff is coordinating with other county departments to develop a site plan on A-16-a to have County staging area for operations and an area for contractor staging to support the various capital improvement projects. Tonight's budget presentation included some funds to help support site work required for this new staging area.
13. For the vertical switch gear project, the substantial completion is planned for mid-May and final completion by the end of June. This \$3.3 million project will be completed 2 months earlier and the estimate to complete the project is coming in under the budget at \$3,074,665.