



# Los Alamos OSRP team recognized with Hodes Award 2018

June 5, 2018

In March, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Off-Site Source Recovery Program (OSRP) were recognized with the Richard S. Hodes Award at the Waste Management '18 Symposium in Phoenix, AZ. The Hodes Award, established in March 2003, is presented to an individual, company, or organization that has contributed in a significant way to improving the technology, policy or practices of low-level radioactive waste management in the United States. NNSA and OSRP received the award in recognition of their work in addressing the need for additional Type B containers for the transportation of sealed radioactive sources. The NNSA and the OSRP team from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Idaho National Laboratory (INL) were recognized for successfully completing the design, testing and certification of two new transportation containers, the 435-B and the 380-B. LANL OSRP Program Manager Becky Coel-Roback was present to receive the award along with the Federal NNSA PM, Temeka Taplin and the OSRP PM from Idaho National Laboratory, Dave Parks.

Two production units of the 435-B have been fabricated and licensed through the Lab and have recently been put into operation by INL in support of OSRP activities. The addition of the new units into operation will help alleviate a shortage of Type B containers that significantly limited the recovery and disposal of disused sealed sources from high-activity beta/gamma devices for many years. Soon after the award presentation, the first recovery was successfully completed using the new 435-B container.

The 435-B is an unshielded leak-tight container that weighs in at less than 5,000 pounds empty, in contrast to shielded type B containers that weigh tens of thousands of pounds and require a dedicated trailer and overweight permit to transport, even when empty. An additional benefit of the new design: its smaller size allows it to be used for OSRP recoveries in tight spots and congested areas. On the evening of March 27 into the early morning of March 28, the first device to be recovered using a 435-B container was successfully retrieved from a VA hospital in Texas.

The Hodes Award recognition and successful recovery using the 435-B concluded many years of design, testing and licensing effort on the part of NNSA, OSRP, and the Laboratory packaging and transportation personnel (OS-PT). The 380-B, a larger shielded container, has likewise taken many years to design and license, and the first unit is currently in fabrication with a delivery date of early 2019. The ultimate goal is to provide the container designs to qualified private sector entities for commercial

fabrication, thereby encouraging and facilitating sealed source management and disposition.

The Hodes Award bears the name of Dr. Richard S. Hodes, a developer and supporter of innovation and public policy surrounding low-level radioactive waste management. Dr. Hodes was a negotiator of the Southeast Compact law and later served as chairman of the Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management.

See more information on the [Southeast Compact](#) and how it relates to the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act.

More information is available on [Dr. Hodes and the Hodes Award](#).

**Los Alamos National Laboratory**

[www.lanl.gov](http://www.lanl.gov)

**(505) 667-7000**

**Los Alamos, NM**

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