



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting  
March 28, 2012  
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting Location: Marriott Pyramid North  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**MINUTES**

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**Meeting Attendees:**

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**Department of Energy:**

**Ed Worth, Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)**

**Pete Maggiore, Assistant Manager for Environmental Projects**

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**NNMCAB Members:**

**1. Ralph Phelps, NNM CAB Chair**

**2. Carlos Valdez, NNM CAB Vice Chair**

**3. Manuel Pacheco, Waste Management (WM) Committee Chair**

**4. Doug Sayre**

**5. Bonnie Lucas**

**6. Lawrence Longacre**

**7. Lawrence Garcia**

**8. Joey Tiano**

**9. Nona Girardi**

**10. Allison Majure**

**11. Art Mascarenas**

**12. Robert Villarreal**

**13. Brenda Gallegos**

**14. Nick Maestas**

**15. Nicole Castellano**

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**Excused Absences:**

**Deb Shaw**

**Mike Loya**

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**Marked Absent:**

**Jacqueline Gutierrez**

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**NNMCAB Support Staff:**

**Menice Santistevan, Executive Director**

1 **Grace Roybal, Senior Cost Analyst**  
2 **Karen Erickson, Technical Writer**  
3 **Edward Roybal, Sound Technician**

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5 **Guests:**

6 **Stephen Schmelling, Public**  
7 **Miquela Pacheco, Public**  
8 **Dave McCoy, Director, Citizen Action New Mexico**  
9 **Patricia Parrish, USDOE/NNSA/LASO**  
10 **Veronica Cruz, Citizen Action New Mexico**  
11 **Bill Woldman, Senator Tom Udall's Office**  
12 **Christina Houston, LASO**  
13 **Jeri Clausing, Associated Press**  
14 **Tom Skibitski, NMED DOE Oversight Bureau**  
15 **Rich Mayer, US EPA, Dallas, TX**  
16 **Paul Torcoletti, US EPA, Dallas, TX**  
17 **Henry Misserville, Public**  
18 **Joe Estrada, NNSA-SSO**  
19 **Ray Wood, LASO/EPO**  
20 **John Cochran, Sandia National Laboratories**  
21 **Colleen Curran, LANL**  
22 **Jane DeRose Bamman, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority**  
23 **Chris Alexander, Public**  
24 **Cecilia Mascarenas, Public**  
25 **Candyce O'Donnell, Videographer**

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1 **MINUTES**

2 **I. Call to Order**

3 The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board  
4 (NNMCAB) meeting was held on March 28, 2012 at the Marriott Pyramid North in Albuquerque,  
5 New Mexico. Mr. Ed Worth, Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), stated that on behalf  
6 of the Department of Energy (DOE), the regular bi-monthly meeting of the NNM CAB was called  
7 to order at 1:00 p.m.

8 Mr. Worth recognized Mr. Ralph Phelps as NNM CAB Chair. The Chair presided at the  
9 meeting.

10 The regular meeting of the NNM CAB was open to the public and posted in **The Federal**  
11 **Register** in accordance with **The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)**.

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14 **II. Establishment of a Quorum (10 needed)**

15 **A. Roll Call**

16 Ms. Erickson conducted roll call as the members arrived. Thirteen members were  
17 present at the meeting at the time of roll call, which comprised a quorum for conducting  
18 business.

19 **B. Excused Absences**

20 Ms. Erickson recorded that Deb Shaw and Mike Loya had approved excused absences.  
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23 **III. Welcome and Introductions**

24 Mr. Phelps welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked for introductions from the  
25 members and guests in attendance.  
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28 **IV. Approval of Agenda**

29 The board reviewed the March 28, 2012 NNM CAB meeting agenda. The board would  
30 hear two presentations on the Status of Sandia Laboratory's Environmental Restoration  
31 Program, and Effects of Upstream Events/Sources on the Rio Grande.

32 **Mr. Sayre moved to approve the agenda and Mr. Tiano seconded the motion. Mr.**  
33 **Worth mentioned a minor change to the agenda, that Mr. Pete Maggiore would be using Mr.**  
34 **Worth's allotted time on the agenda. The meeting agenda was unanimously approved.**  
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37 **V. Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2012**

38 The board reviewed the minutes from the January 25, 2012 NNM CAB meeting. By  
39 ongoing instructions from DOE Headquarters, the minutes were previously reviewed and  
40 certified by the NNM CAB Chair, Mr. Ralph Phelps. Mr. Phelps stated that the January 25  
41 minutes were included in the board packets and presented at this meeting for board approval.

42 **Mr. Garcia moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Pacheco seconded the**  
43 **motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.**  
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2 **VI. Old Business**

3 **A. Written Reports**

4 **1. NNMCAB Chair's Report**

5 A printed copy of the Chair's Report was included in the meeting packet and a  
6 copy may be obtained by request from the CAB office at (505) 989-1662. Mr. Phelps  
7 briefly reviewed the main points in the Chair's report:

8 a. Routine Chair Activities since last NNMCAB meeting on January 25, 2012  
9 included the following:

10 1. Executive Committee met on 2-8-2012 and discussed agendas for  
11 the 3-28-2012 NNMCAB meeting and 5-30-2012 Annual CAB Workshop;  
12 approved a revision to the recommendation tracking sheet to include  
13 specifics on actions taken; heard a report on a Memorial approved by the  
14 New Mexico House to fully fund Material Disposal Area (MDA) G  
15 transuranic (TRU) waste removal; encouraged committees to develop  
16 2012 recommendations; and welcomed new and reappointed members.

17 2. Executive Committee met on 3-14-2012 and discussed Draft  
18 Recommendation 2012-01 on the 2014 DOE Environmental Management  
19 (EM) budget; discussed a paper on CAB activity that can be used for  
20 public information; discussed the Chairs' Meeting agenda and the priority  
21 item to be presented; announced the new NNMCAB offices Open House  
22 date of May 16, 2012; approved videotaping NNMCAB meetings for local  
23 TV and Web; approved the 3-28-2012 NNMCAB meeting agenda; and  
24 announced four new appointees bringing the membership up to 19.

25 3. Supported Combined Waste Management (WM) and  
26 Environmental Monitoring, Surveillance, and Remediation (EMSR)  
27 Committee meetings on 2-8-2012 and 3-14-2012, which included  
28 presentations by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Los Alamos  
29 Utilities Manager and election of committee officers.

30 b. Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Related Chair Activities since last  
31 NNMCAB meeting on January 25, 2012 included a Chairs conference call on 2-23-  
32 2012, during which EM Headquarters (HQ) status updates were received and  
33 chairs discussed the 4-17-2012 meeting agenda and the new approach to  
34 briefing on the priorities of each SSAB.

35  
36 **2. NNMCAB Support Staff Executive Director's Report**

37 A printed copy of Ms. Santistevan's report was included in the meeting packet  
38 and a copy may be obtained by request from the CAB office at (505) 989-1662. Ms.  
39 Santistevan's report included:

40 a. Board Membership Update:

41 The NNMCAB is currently comprised of 19 members, including four new  
42 members and two re-appointees.

43 b. Executive Committee Meetings:

44 The committee met on 2-8-2012 and 3-14-2012. The committee heard

1 reports from the Chair, Committee Chairs, DDFO, and Executive Director. The  
2 committee finalized the agenda for this meeting and the format for the 5-30-  
3 2012 Workshop, and discussed presentation requests, attendance, and  
4 recommendation ideas. The committee discussed outreach to stakeholder  
5 groups and how to better involve surrounding pueblos.

6 c. Board Meeting Preparations:

7 Ms. Santistevan prepared and submitted the agenda for the March 28  
8 meeting and submitted notice to **The Federal Register**, in compliance with **The**  
9 **Federal Advisory Committee Act**.

10 Arrangements were made by Ms. Santistevan with the Marriott Pyramid  
11 North, including room setup and rental, and overnight reservations. Ms.  
12 Santistevan and Ed Worth coordinated the speakers and liaison member  
13 attendance. Meeting materials were copied and collated by Ms. Roybal and  
14 meeting packets were mailed out on March 21st. An advertisement for the  
15 meeting was placed in *The Albuquerque Journal* by Ms. Roybal and on the  
16 NNM CAB website and calendar by Ms. Erickson. Press releases were sent out to  
17 *The Santa Fe New Mexican* and to environmental publications.

18 d. EM Site-Specific Advisory Board Chairs' Meeting:

19 The spring Chairs' meeting will be hosted by the Paducah CAB April 17-  
20 19. Ralph Phelps, Carlos Valdez, Ed Worth, and Ms. Santistevan will attend.

21 e. Outreach:

22 Ms. Roybal and Ms. Santistevan set up an outreach table at the State  
23 Capitol Rotunda on February 10 during the Legislative session, speaking to many  
24 and distributing literature and information about the NNM CAB. A booth will be  
25 set up for Earth Day in Los Alamos on April 21.

26 f. Office Management

27 NNM CAB support staff has been working diligently to organize and outfit  
28 the new offices in Pojoaque as efficiently as possible. The NNM CAB offices will  
29 also serve as a venue for local established artists and student artists. The Open  
30 House is now scheduled for May 16.

31 g. Important Upcoming Dates

32 Combined WM/EMSR committee meetings will take place April 25, 2012  
33 at the Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos, followed by a tour of a LANL  
34 well sampling site. May 16, 2012 is the NNM CAB Offices Open House, followed  
35 by the combined committee meetings.

36 h. Next Board Meeting

37 The next NNM CAB meeting is its Annual Educational Workshop, which  
38 will take place May 30, 2012 at The Lodge in Santa Fe.

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40 **B. Report on Waste Management Symposia**

41 The Waste Management Symposia was attended by Mr. Pacheco, Mr. Tiano, Ms.  
42 Santistevan, and Mr. Worth. Mr. Pacheco reported that the symposia featured an  
43 amazing amount of technologies, services, and knowledge, opportunities for  
44 networking, and chances to share with others around the country and the world what

1 the NNMCAB is and what its mission is. Mr. Pacheco reported that he presented a  
2 paper written by Ms. Santistevan about the role of the SSAB in environmental cleanup  
3 of DOE sites. Mr. Tiano reported a confidence in the safety of the United States in how  
4 it handles and transports its waste, with greater regulation and more safety measures to  
5 protect against terrorism and sabotage than are used in other countries. Mr. Longacre  
6 suggested that future trips to classes/seminars/tours should ultimately result in a  
7 recommendation. Mr. Pacheco added that a common frustration of symposia  
8 participants was a lack of adequate funding. Ms. Santistevan said that the Waste  
9 Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) site is a major topic at this conference, as it is the only  
10 repository of its kind in the world. High-level waste disposition is another common  
11 topic, because no one knows what to do with it.

12 Old Business was paused to allow for the first public comment period.  
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15 **VII. Public Comment Period**

16 Mr. Phelps announced the first public comment period. He introduced William  
17 Woldman of Senator Tom Udall's office. Dave McCoy, Executive Director of Citizen Action New  
18 Mexico, signed up for public comment.

19 Mr. McCoy presented some background on Citizen Action and presented some of the  
20 group's concerns regarding operations at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL).

- 21 - The mixed-waste landfill had a defective monitoring network, but used data from it  
22 to say that the ground water was safe from contamination. Mr. McCoy said that  
23 reports from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the  
24 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 exist regarding contamination and  
25 insufficiency of the dirt cover of the mixed-waste landfill, but that Citizen Action  
26 New Mexico is being prevented from accessing those reports, citing planned but  
27 canceled review by DOE, an NMED delay of two years in doing a feasibility of  
28 excavation review, and other secrecy and obfuscation by state and federal agencies.
- 29 - In a few years, Albuquerque's drinking water wells on the east side of town will be  
30 contaminated with ethylene dibromide from a large jet fuel spill. On the west side  
31 of town, there is water contamination in the Tijeras Arroyo, as well as other ground  
32 water contamination. Open burning and open detonation are also still going on, and  
33 there are several dump sites that SNL is trying to give a status of "no further action"  
34 required, despite not having been properly monitored or investigated.  
35 Contamination includes radionuclides, heavy metals, solvent wastes.
- 36 - An unsafe nuclear reactor, the annular core research reactor, is still being operated.  
37 It should be shut down, but because the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
38 (DNFSB) has no authority to shut it down, DOE can keep it running despite it being  
39 unsafe from earthquake at SNL's own admission, an out-of-date Environmental  
40 Impact Statement (EIS) and other reports, and employees dying at early ages with  
41 high cancer rates.
- 42 - SNL uses a tremendous amount of water – more than a million gallons a day – that  
43 goes into the wastewater system.

1 - Mr. McCoy also mentioned concerns with waste at LANL, stating that some are  
2 being touted as success stories but he does not believe that they are.  
3 Henry Misserville, who had also signed up for public comment, was not present at the  
4 time of the first public comment period. Mr. Phelps closed the first public comment period.  
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7 **VIII. Old Business, Continued**

8 **C. Election of Committee Chairs**

9 Committee chairs and vice chairs were elected at the March 14, 2012 combined  
10 committee meeting, but a vice chair for the EMSR committee is needed through  
11 October. Mr. Sayre will serve as chair.

12 **Mr. Pacheco nominated Allison Majure by acclamation, to which Allison agreed.**  
13 **Mr. Garcia seconded the nomination. The motion passed.**

14  
15 **D. Discussion of Alternate Viewpoints**

16 Mr. Longacre restated a desire to hear from independent or differing viewpoints  
17 rather than just hearing from DOE or LANL. Mr. Phelps announced that more of our  
18 liaison members would be arriving soon, as well as other invited guests who could  
19 provide alternate viewpoints. Mr. Phelps stated that Mr. Longacre's point is well taken  
20 and that we are interested in hearing both sides of the story.  
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23 **IX. New Business**

24 **A. Chairs' Meeting in Paducah, KY**

25 Mr. Phelps announced that a round robin would take place at the Chairs'  
26 meeting wherein each CAB would be allowed to present for three to five minutes. He  
27 called attention to the gray paper in the meeting packet with the NNMCAB's items for  
28 report, and asked for any comments from NNMCAB members. Mr. Garcia asked if the  
29 NNMCAB would be able to hear the presentation before the Chairs' meeting. Mr.  
30 Phelps replied that the presentation is informal and not prepared, but that he will make  
31 the meeting notes available to anyone who requests them. The NNMCAB's top three  
32 issues will also be presented in writing at the meeting.  
33

34 **B. Draft of Letter from Regional Coalition of LANL Communities**

35 Mr. Phelps reported that Los Alamos County Council Chair Sharon Stover called  
36 him to request the NNMCAB's help in community support through the newly formed  
37 Regional Coalition of LANL Communities, which includes some of our political  
38 representatives. The Coalition drafted a letter requesting additional funding for cleanup  
39 at LANL, and requested NNMCAB support for it.

40 Ms. Castellano asked whether the Coalition can lobby, since one of its members  
41 is running for office. Mr. Worth clarified that they may lobby the federal government,  
42 but not their own government.

43 Mr. Valdez asked if it would be good to have a NNMCAB member serve as a  
44 member of the Coalition. Mr. Phelps replied that today's discussion only involves

1 establishing an initial relationship with this newly formed Coalition. Mr. Worth will look  
2 into legalities of having an official or liaison membership affiliation with the Coalition.

3 **Mr. Pacheco moved to approve the letter. Mr. Sayre seconded the motion.**

4 Discussion centered on agreed-upon urgency of funding for remediation;  
5 possible edits to the letter's contents and recipient(s); need for more information about  
6 the Coalition, its members, and its intentions; and common goals of both groups. **The**  
7 **motion passed unanimously.**

8  
9 **Seeing no further new business, Mr. Phelps entertained a motion from Mr.**  
10 **Sayre to reopen the public comment period. Ms. Lucas seconded the motion. The**  
11 **motion passed unanimously and the public comment period was reopened.**

12 Henry Misserville of Citizen Action New Mexico reiterated concerns about a  
13 nuclear reactor at SNL and lack of safety measures for potential uncontrolled motion,  
14 failure of main control system, aircraft impact, and lack of a reliable evacuation plan.  
15 Mr. Misserville also expressed concern with SNL's mixed-waste landfill, the as-yet  
16 uncontained 80-million gallon jet fuel spill over Albuquerque's aquifer, and the military's  
17 stated plan to shut down the wells if it invades the aquifer. He asked the NNMCAB to  
18 support Citizen Action New Mexico's efforts to force the Air Force to remediate the jet  
19 fuel spill, to shut down the nuclear reactor at SNL, and to support water authorities  
20 putting pressure on SNL and KAFB.

21 Mr. Phelps closed the public comment period.  
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24 **X. Items from DDFO**

25 Mr. Worth reported that Mr. Lee Bishop is working very hard to get the TRU waste off  
26 the hill. He is currently about 160% ahead of schedule. He will give a full report in May.

27 Mr. Worth also reported a management change; George Rael has accepted the position  
28 of Manager of National Security Missions at the Los Alamos Site Office (LASO). Pete Maggiore  
29 has assumed command of the environmental group.

30 Mr. Villarreal asked if there were any better or more efficient ways to transfer the waste  
31 to WIPP than those methods currently being used. Mr. Worth replied that Mr. Bishop and his  
32 group are constantly striving for better efficiency, as evidenced by their being ahead of  
33 schedule, but that Mr. Worth will pose that question for Mr. Bishop to address when he  
34 presents his report to the NNMCAB in May. Mr. Garcia asked how many shifts they are  
35 running; Mr. Worth replied two for now, but a third may be added, and that current funding  
36 would allow running three shifts for the remainder of the year.  
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39 **XI. Presentation: "Progress of Sandia Cleanup Operations," Joe Estrada, John Cochran,**  
40 **Sandia National Laboratories**

41 A printed copy of the presentation notes may be obtained by request from the CAB  
42 office at (505) 989-1662.

43 Joe Estrada, Environmental Restoration (ER) Federal Project Director with DOE/National  
44 Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) Sandia Site Office, and John Cochran, Environmental

1 Restoration Operations Project Manager with Sandia National Laboratories, gave a presentation  
2 on cleanup and monitoring operations at and around the SNL site. Highlights included:

- 3 - SNL's public participation program, which transitioned from a SSAB to a Long-Term  
4 Stewardship (LTS) Community Working Group from 2000 to 2006, allowing for less  
5 formal meetings, then to periodic information sharing with the public at SNL's semi-  
6 annual public meetings and at National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-related  
7 public meetings.
- 8 - SNL currently manages 265 ER sites and 3 Ground Water Areas Of Concern (GW  
9 AOCs) under a 2004 Consent Order with NMED. 233 of the 265 ER sites have been  
10 completely closed.
- 11 - Remaining sites include a mixed waste landfill (solid waste management area, or  
12 SWMU); 26 SWMUs in "corrective action complete" regulatory process, 5 SWMUs  
13 undergoing ground water investigations, and the 3 GW AOCs, a burn test site, the  
14 Tijeras Arroyo, and Technical Area (TA) V.
- 15 - Details presented on the mixed waste landfill included location and status of the  
16 landfill, corrective measures taken, and long-term monitoring and maintenance  
17 plans submitted to NMED.
- 18 - Details presented on the SWMUs included ground water monitoring progress and  
19 future plans, and results of monitoring activities thus far.

20 NNMCAB members asked Mr. Estrada and Mr. Cochran about the nature of long-term  
21 stewardship and plans for the land, the nature of the evapotranspirative cover over the landfill,  
22 and how Citizen Action New Mexico's concerns were being addressed. The presenters stressed  
23 that contaminants are not traveling and that the decision to leave the waste at the landfill will  
24 be revisited every five years.  
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27 **XII. Items from Liaison Members**

28 **A. NMED Liaison John Keiling**

29 Mr. Keiling reported that the Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB) of NMED is  
30 monitoring several commercial and government sites. He clarified that radionuclides at  
31 sites are regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or DOE. Mr. Keiling  
32 confirmed that one impetus of the Consent Order was to drive funding for cleanup.

33 Mr. Sayre asked how much monitoring of the Rio Grande is done by NMED; Mr.  
34 Keiling replied that NMED does not do this monitoring, but that NMED receives  
35 information from various monitoring agencies such as the DOE Oversight Bureau, the  
36 United States Geological Survey (USGS), soil conservation and other groups.

37 Regarding the jet fuel spill, Mr. Keiling reported that NMED is in the  
38 characterization phase, determining the location of the plume and installing monitoring  
39 wells and soil vapor extraction wells. The HWB received the project two years ago and  
40 has no timeline established yet for completion of characterization or for remediation.  
41

42 **B. Michael Graham, Associate Director of Environmental Programs, LANL**

43 Mr. Graham reported on the shift in priorities to focus on shipping TRU waste to  
44 WIPP while continuing necessary ground and surface water monitoring. Some

1 employees were lost to the recent reduction in staff, but local, state, and federal  
2 support continues to push the cleanup forward, with waste shipments going ahead of  
3 schedule.

4 Sometime in June the 1,000<sup>th</sup> shipment will be sent to WIPP, marked by a  
5 celebration. Most remaining volume is in large fiberglass-reinforced plywood boxes,  
6 and construction is almost done on a dome to cover those boxes. The theme of the  
7 3,706 campaign is "Count on Us."

8 Questions were posed from the NNMCAB regarding what still needs to be done  
9 and how funding issues will affect the rest of the work. Mr. Graham clarified that recent  
10 cuts at LANL will not affect EM or waste removal.

11 Work at TA-21, which was the focus of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
12 (ARRA) funds, remains on characterization and defining a remedy at MDA A and MDA B,  
13 Mr. Graham said. Demolition needs to take place on water towers and an old water  
14 treatment plant, picking up slabs, and finishing remediation in one area. This adds up to  
15 about \$25 million and could be done in a couple years.

16 Dr. Girardi asked about a recent incident wherein something burned at MDA B.  
17 Mr. Graham described the minor incident, explaining that all materials are packaged up,  
18 emergency response measures worked well, and there were no releases or uptake  
19 events. More research is being done to safely handle the material in question.

20 Mr. Graham added that some areas of contamination at the town sites will  
21 require remediation, but that because the areas are small, it might be more efficient to  
22 just scoop it out. They are also looking to resolve the sources of the contamination.

23  
24 **C. Pete Maggiore, Assistant Manager for Environmental Projects, LASO**

25 Mr. Maggiore, along with budget expert Patricia Parrish, reported on work being  
26 done on the current budget status and FY2013 funding, as well as a submittal for the  
27 FY2014 budget. They are working on two scenarios, a base level case at the President's  
28 proposed budget of \$239 million, and an investment level case, about a ten percent  
29 increase from the President's proposed budget, to allow for accelerated or enhanced  
30 work. The ten percent increase would allow work to proceed on the 33 shafts, a  
31 particularly challenging /expensive project at TA-54, as well as deep vadose zone  
32 cleanup opportunities and more chromium cleanup in the canyons.

33  
34 **D. Rich Mayer, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, Dalls, TX**

35 Mr. Mayer clarified responsibilities for various programs, stating that the state  
36 has primacy on hazardous waste, and the EPA has authority over the polychlorinated  
37 biphenyls (PCBs) permit and TA-54/MDA G. EPA also does the radiation permit and  
38 requires LANL to meet certain air emission standards. Mr. Mayer reported that there  
39 have been no problems found with air radiation, although the state has detected a few  
40 occasions of elevated radiation, but far into the facility boundary and away from the  
41 public. Another program of the EPA is the Clean Water Act, which covers the individual  
42 storm water permit and 400 solid waste management units, finding only a few small and  
43 quickly corrected exceedances and a greatly reduced number of storm water outfalls.  
44

1           **E.       Tom Skibitski, NMED DOE Oversight Bureau**

2           Mr. Skibitski spoke about tritium, a naturally occurring isotope that can be useful  
3 as a marker to determine the age of water. Buckman Wells have been monitored for  
4 tritium for years, and it has never been detected there; that tells us the water there is  
5 older than the 12.5-years half-life activity would indicate, and that it is not being  
6 “recharged” with modern water. The same applies at the mixed waste landfill at SNL.  
7 Ground water monitoring of the Rio Grande is also being conducted by various agencies.  
8 LANL, NMED, and the Department of Health will do risk analysis and report back to the  
9 public.

10           Mr. Skibitski reported that the quality of water in the Rio Grande is good, with  
11 most exceedances occurring from storm water incidents adding sediments, which can  
12 increase contaminant levels.  
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15 **XIII.     Presentation: “Effects of Upstream Events/Sources on the Rio Grande,” Jane DeRose**  
16 **Bamman, Water Quality Program Manager, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility**  
17 **Authority**

18           A printed copy of Ms. DeRose Bamman’s presentation may be obtained by request from  
19 the NNMCAB office at (505) 989-1662.

20           Ms. DeRose Bamman presented on Albuquerque’s water treatment programs, including  
21 an overview of the San Juan-Chama Drinking Water Project (SWCDWP), a description of water  
22 authority monitoring, and a review of data from the USGS and the Water Authority. Highlights  
23 included:

- 24           - The SWCDWP, opened in 2008, features an adjustable diversion dam and intake  
25 structure and a raw water pump station on the Rio Grande. The project includes  
26 funding to preserve the endangered silvery minnow and includes fish screens and  
27 passages, among other state-of-the-art technologies.
- 28           - Water Authority voluntary monitoring of the water far exceeds monitoring required  
29 by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Substances monitored include organic carbon, pH,  
30 sediments, radioisotopes, PCBs, bacteria, nutrients, and other substances.
- 31           - USGS monitoring determines seasonal and long-term variations in the flow of source  
32 water.
- 33           - Fluctuations were recorded in radiological parameters, but still resulted far below  
34 drinking water quality standards.
- 35           - The Las Conchas Fire presented challenges, requiring additional chemicals to treat  
36 the water, and reduction of withdrawal during times of high levels of ash, debris,  
37 and mud.

38           Questions from the NNMCAB included inquiries about how monitoring levels of certain  
39 compounds are established and what is done with removed sediment and compounds,

40           Ms. DeRose-Bamman clarified that e-coli had never been detected in the water, and  
41 that removed contaminants are tested and processed at a soil amendment facility on the west  
42 side of Albuquerque. She added that the SJCDWP is focused on regulated compounds, and thus  
43 does not evaluate for radon or tritium.  
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2 **XIX. Public Comment Period**

3 Dave McCoy, Samantha Warren, and Henry Misserville of Citizen Action New Mexico  
4 signed up for the second public comment period.

5 Mr. McCoy commented about SNL's presentation, noting that Citizen Action New  
6 Mexico's research had found that the ground water monitoring network was insufficient, with  
7 not enough wells, wells in wrong locations, and drilling fluids masking contamination. His  
8 concerns about items at the mixed waste landfill include nuclear reactor waste water, lead,  
9 depleted uranium, barrels of plutonium, and other items in insufficient containers. Mr. McCoy  
10 also stated that only monitoring, but no remediation has been done on the 26 completed  
11 SWMUs, and that the promised five-year review of the dirt cover has not happened yet. Mr.  
12 McCoy cited disagreements over money as a main cause for work not being done yet.

13 Ms. Warren stressed that the mixed waste landfill is located above Albuquerque's main  
14 drinking water aquifer and that the gradient southwest flow endangers the new Mesa del Sol  
15 subdivision. Because this subdivision will feature affordable housing, Ms. Warren stated her  
16 concern of potential victimization of lower economic classes. Ms. Warren stated that there is a  
17 failure of DOE and NMED to hold SNL accountable for RCRA violations.

18 Mr. Misserville stated his concern about high incidences of cancer in Albuquerque's  
19 South Valley and the need for epidemiological studies. He expressed skepticism about the  
20 objectivity of advisory committees and presenters, and spoke about the dissolution of SNL's  
21 CAB, wondering if it was just for show and had no real power to question or pressure SNL or the  
22 U.S. Air Force. He also stated that the dirt cover over the mixed waste landfill is insufficient to  
23 prevent contamination and that a report stating as much is being hidden from the public. He  
24 summarized that there are three potential crises that need to be addressed: 1) imminent  
25 danger from the jet fuel spill; 2) the mixed waste landfill and other sites that NMED claims to be  
26 okay; and 3) the nuclear power plant on a major fault zone and in the flight path of commercial  
27 and military jets.

28 Seeing no further members of the public wishing to comment, Mr. Phelps closed the  
29 public comment period. Mr. Phelps commented that the NNMCAB charter covers legacy  
30 cleanup at LANL. We do meet around the state, including Albuquerque, and it's great to hear  
31 public comments, but we are focused on LANL by our charter.  
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34 **XX. Consideration and Action on Recommendation 2012-01, Second Draft, "Fiscal Year  
35 2014 Budget Request for Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Management Work"**

36 Mr. Valdez, primary author, described the contents and intent of the recommendation,  
37 explaining that ARRA funds are used up, so we must work from a base budget request, citing  
38 the Consent Order as the driving force for funding.

39 Mr. Sayre presented some changes to the recommendation in the wording to clarify  
40 amounts requested by which dates, and to add a drum equivalency clause to the 3,706 cubic  
41 meters measurement.

42 **Mr. Sayre moved that the NNMCAB approve Recommendation 2012-01, Second Draft,**  
43 **with changes as noted, for forwarding to DOE. Dr. Girardi seconded the motion. The motion**  
44 **passed unanimously and the recommendation was approved.**

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**XXI. Wrap-Up**

Mr. Phelps opened the floor to general comments.

Mr. Sayre commented that it was an informative meeting with well thought out presentations and public comments. He expressed appreciation for good facilities and catering. He also mentioned a recent trip that inspired him to suggest the NNMCAB tour a uranium enrichment facility at some point, and how they deal with federal and commercial hazardous waste.

Mr. Longacre expressed gratitude that we had several participants making public comments. He expressed support for the speakers and a desire for the NNMCAB to do something to help them, such as sending a letter, even though it is outside of our charter. Mr. Phelps responded that there may be something we can do to express support, outside of an official recommendation. He promised to address the issue at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Garcia suggested it might be good to have a tour of Sandia National Laboratories, even though the site is not part of the NNMCAB’s charter, because of commonly affected areas such as the Rio Grande, Heron Lake, and other areas. He also thanked the NNMCAB staff for their efforts.

Ms. Lucas expressed appreciation for the meeting facilities and the public comments. She also said that it is important for the NNMCAB to do what is right, and not make decisions or votes solely contingent upon jobs or jobs lost at the Lab.

Mr. Maestas thanked the NNMCAB staff, and agreed with Mr. Longacre that he would like to see the NNMCAB support Citizen Action New Mexico in some way.

Dr. Girardi commented that it was worthwhile to come to Albuquerque to hear about Buckman-related water issues, and to present opportunities to a larger population base. She added that lessons learned from LANL, and how they have been motivated to accelerate the cleanup efforts, could be applied to SNL and KAFB, to make cleanup a priority for them as well.

Ms. Erickson offered assistance to any NNMCAB members or guests who have questions or need copies of materials from the meeting, and announced that the presentations from today’s meeting would be uploaded to the website as soon as possible.

Mr. Worth stated that a tour of SNL would be a good learning experience and that he would look into it. On April 25, the NNMCAB will tour a well sampling site at LANL, preceded by a more detailed briefing on the budget. He thanked the members of the public for their comments.

Ms. Santistevan thanked NNMCAB members for attending and reminded all to submit travel reimbursement information to Ms. Roybal. She announced that two new nominees from Pojoaque Pueblo are moving through the application process.

Mr. Valdez thanked the NNMCAB staff, expressed satisfaction with the good turnout, and welcomed the new members of the NNMCAB.

Ms. Gallegos said that there was a lot of information to take in, but that she looks forward to working with everyone. She also thanked those who made public comments.

Mr. Tiano commented that while information is generally open in our country, matters of money do sometimes involve deceit. He stated that he appreciates facts being presented at

1 these meetings by Mr. Worth and others, and reiterated his support for the environment and  
2 public safety.

3 Mr. Villarreal said it was a good, informational meeting, and that he hopes the support  
4 for the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities isn't just emotional, but something that pans  
5 out as something really worthwhile.

6 Mr. Pacheco thanked the public commenters, the NNMCAB staff, and all for a  
7 productive meeting

8 Ms. Majure stated that she feels her time is valued, meetings are well run, everyone is  
9 well prepared, and there is a high level of integrity and problem solving.

10 Mr. Mascarenas stated that it was a productive, informative, and interesting meeting,  
11 adding that it is evident that there are a lot of people who value their community and their  
12 environment.

13 Mr. Mayer complimented each NNMCAB member for taking the time to participate,  
14 adding that the NNMCAB is the most sophisticated, dedicated, and intelligent board he has  
15 seen. He encouraged the NNMCAB to remain independent of other entities and make its own  
16 independent decisions.

17 Ms. Santistevan added that information presented here today will go beyond this room,  
18 with representatives present from Senator Tom Udall's office, the Associated Press, and other  
19 entities. She also introduced Candyce O'Donnell, who will be videotaping our NNMCAB  
20 meetings from now on, and editing them for presentation on public access television and  
21 YouTube. This will help disseminate information to many citizens who could not attend the  
22 meeting today.

23 Mr. Phelps issued some final reminders: the official NNMCAB Open House for the new  
24 offices, scheduled for May 16; and the next NNMCAB meeting May 30, which is the annual  
25 workshop.

26 Mr. Pacheco added a note of thanks to Mr. Worth for his excellent service as the  
27 NNMCAB's DDFO, adding that the NNMCAB could not ask for a better liaison.

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30 **XXII. Adjournment**

31 With no further business to discuss, Mr. Worth, DDFO, adjourned the meeting at 7:24  
32 p.m.

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34 **Respectfully submitted,**



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36 **Ralph Phelps, Chair, NNMCAB**

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38 *\*Minutes prepared by Karen Erickson, NNMCAB Technical Writer*

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40 **Attachments:**

41 **1. Final 3-28-2012 NNMCAB Meeting Agenda**

- 1 2. Final 1-25-2012 NNMCAB Meeting Minutes
- 2 3. Report from Ralph Phelps, NNMCAB Chair
- 3 4. Report from Menice Santistevan, NNMCAB Executive Director
- 4 5. PowerPoint Presentation, "Progress of Sandia Cleanup Operations," Joe Estrada,  
5 Environmental Restoration Federal Project Director, DOE/NNSA Sandia Site Office, and  
6 John R. Cochran, Environmental Restoration Operations Project Manager, Sandia  
7 National Laboratories
- 8 6. PowerPoint Presentation, "Effects of Upstream Events/Sources on the Rio Grande,"  
9 Jane DeRose-Bamman, Water Quality Program Manager, Albuquerque Bernalillo  
10 County Water Utility Authority
- 11 7. NNMCAB Recommendation 2012-01, Second Draft, "Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request  
12 for Los Alamos National Laboratory Environmental Management Work"
- 13 8. Report, "WM 2012 – Improving the Future in Waste Management," Manuel L. Pacheco  
14 and Joseph Tiano
- 15 9. Fact Sheet, "Sandia Laboratories' Mixed Waste Landfill," Citizen Action New Mexico
- 16 10. Fact Sheet, "Largest Jet Fuel Threat to Drinking Water Supply in the History of the  
17 Nation from Kirtland Air Force Base Threatening 30% of Drinking Water Resource in  
18 Albuquerque, NM," Citizen Action New Mexico
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21 **Public Notice:**

22  \*All NNMCAB meetings are recorded. Audiotapes have been placed on file for review at  
23 the NNMCAB Office, 94 Cities of Gold Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87506.

24  \*Reference documents listed in the Appendix section of these minutes may be requested  
25 for review at the NNMCAB office in Pojoaque by calling (505) 989-1662.

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