



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting

September 28, 2011

1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Sagebrush Inn Conference Center

Taos, New Mexico

MINUTES

Meeting Attendees:

Department of Energy:

Lee Bishop, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)

Ed Worth, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)

Pete Maggiore, Deputy Assistant Manager for Environmental Operations

NNMCAB Members:

- 1. Ralph Phelps, NNM CAB Chair**
- 2. Robert Gallegos, NNM CAB Vice Chair**
- 3. Pam Gilchrist, EMSR Committee Co-Chair**
- 4. Deb Shaw, EMSR Committee Co-Chair**
- 5. Manuel Pacheco, WM Committee Chair**
- 6. Lawrence Longacre**
- 7. Gerry Maestas**
- 8. Nicole Castellano**
- 9. Carlos Valdez**
- 10. Nona Girardi**
- 11. Doug Sayre**
- 12. Bob Villarrael**
- 13. Nick Maestas**

Excused Absences:

Michael Loya

Caroline Mason

Lawrence Garcia

Marked Absent:

Jacqueline Gutierrez

NNMCAB Staff:

Menice Santistevan, Executive Director

Karen Erickson, Technical Writer

1 **Grace Roybal, Office Administrator**
2 **Edward Roybal, Sound Technician**

3
4 **Guests-**

- 5 **1. Michele Jacquez Ortiz, Senator Tom Udall's Office**
 - 6 **2. Lorrie Bonds Lopez, LANL**
 - 7 **3. Amy Quintana, Taos Town Council**
 - 8 **4. Lena Lopez**
 - 9 **5. Thomas P. Longo, DOE/NNSA Office of Environmental Operations**
 - 10 **6. Jeri Clausin, Associated Press**
 - 11 **7. Colleen Curran, LANL**
 - 12 **8. Diego Guillen, Espoir, Inc.**
 - 13 **9. Bonnie Lucas**
-

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
 - II. Establishment of Quorum (9 needed)**
 - a. Roll Call**
 - b. Excused Absences**
 - III. Welcome and Introductions**
 - IV. Approval of Agenda**
 - V. Approval of Minutes of July 27, 2011**
 - VI. Public Comment Period**
 - VII. Old Business**
 - a. Written Reports**
 - b. Other Items**
 - VIII. New Business**
 - a. Report from Nominating Committee (Section V., F. of NNMCAB Bylaws)**
 - b. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for FY '12**
 - c. Consideration and Action on FY '12 Committee Work Plans**
 - d. Consideration and Action on "Top Three Issues"**
 - e. Discuss NNMCAB Meeting Locations for 2012**
 - f. Appoint Ad Hoc Committee for Annual Self-Evaluation**
 - g. Other Items**
 - IX. Items from DDFOs**
 - X. Presentation on Long-Term Stewardship – Tom Longo**
 - XI. Discussion on Draft Recommendation to the DOE**
 - XII. Public Comment Period**
 - XIII. Consideration and Action on Draft Recommendation 2011-06 (Tabled on 7/20/2011):
"Statement that LANL Be Selected as a Screening Lab for Certain Greater Than Class C
Low-Level Radioactive Wastes prior to Disposal at the WIPP Repository"**
 - XIV. Wrap-up and Comments from Board Members**
 - XV. Adjournment**
-

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB or CAB) meeting was held on September 28, 2011 at the Sagebrush Inn and Conference Center in Taos, New Mexico. Mr. Worth, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), stated that on behalf of the Department of Energy (DOE), the regular bi-monthly meeting of the NNMCAB was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Worth recognized Mr. Phelps as NNMCAB Chair. The Chair presided at the meeting. The regular meeting of the NNMCAB was open to the public and posted in **The Federal Register** in accordance with **The Federal Advisory Committee Act**.

II. Establishment of a Quorum (9 needed)

a. Roll Call

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

b. Excused Absences

Mr. Worth and Mr. Bishop, Co-DDFOs, had previously approved excused absences for Ms. Caroline Mason, Mr. Lawrence Garcia, and Mr. Michael Loya.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Phelps welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated his appreciation for everyone's attendance.

Amy Quintana, Taos Council member, welcomed those present on behalf of the Town of Taos.

Mr. Phelps asked for introductions from the members and guests in attendance.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The board reviewed the September 28, 2011 CAB meeting agenda. Mr. Phelps called for any comments or additions to the agenda. The board would hear a presentation by Tom Longo on Long-Term Stewardship. The board would also consider a draft recommendation for submittal to DOE.

Mr. Pacheco moved to approve the agenda as amended and Mr. Valdez seconded the motion. The meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

V. Approval of Minutes of July 27, 2011

The board reviewed the minutes from the July 27, 2011 CAB meeting. By ongoing instructions from DOE Headquarters, the minutes were previously reviewed and certified by the NNMCAB Chair, Mr. Ralph Phelps. Mr. Phelps stated that the July minutes were included in the board packets and presented at this meeting for board approval.

Mr. Gallegos moved to approve the minutes as presented. Rev. Gilchrist seconded the

1 motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.
2

3
4 **VI. Public Comment Period**

5 No one signed up for the first public comment period.
6

7
8 **VII. Old Business**

9 **a. Written Reports**

10 **1. Waste Management (WM) Committee**

11 A printed copy of the WM Committee's work plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 was
12 included in the meeting packet and a copy may be obtained by request from the CAB
13 office at (505) 989-1662. Mr. Pacheco reported that the Waste Management
14 Committee met last month, but will wait until the November committee meeting to
15 report more information to the NNMCAB.

16 **2. Environmental Monitoring, Remediation and Surveillance (EMSR) Committee**

17 A printed copy of the EMSR Committee's work plan for FY 2012 was included in
18 the meeting packet and a copy may be obtained by request from the CAB office at (505)
19 989-1662. Dr. Shaw reported that the committee is modifying its work plan slightly.
20 Rev. Gilchrist added that they will likely make one more switch to the plan, moving the
21 riparian systems investigation to the surface water section.

22 **3. NNMCAB Chair's Report**

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

26 Routine Chair Activities since last NNMCAB meeting on July 27, 2011 included
27 the following:

28 a. Executive Committee met on August 10, 2011:

- 29 • Spent time discussing revised goals for membership targets and
30 directional objectives for the entire CAB, agreeing to increase
31 membership closer to 27 and to provide better educational
32 opportunities for new members. A summary of this discussion
33 was e-mailed to members in the form of a CAB Initiative White
34 Paper, which is also attached to the Chair's Report.
- 35 • Set timing of Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) tour for November
36 7-8, 2011. Nineteen members and guests are signed up.
- 37 • Requested candidate statements for 2012 new officers.
- 38 • Approved agenda for the September 28, 2011 CAB meeting in
39 Taos.

40 b. Executive Committee met on September 14, 2011:

- 41 • The initiative to bring the CAB membership up to allowed limits
42 and to increase community education was approved by the
43 Executive Committee.

- The Top Three Issues were reviewed for the October 20, 2011 Chairs videoconference, with a few recommended changes.
- The CAB office relocation to Pojoaque is expected to occur in late October or early November 2011.
- Approved final agenda for the September 28, 2011 CAB meeting.
- Approved the proposed 2012 CAB meeting locations and dates.

c. Supported the WM/EMSR Joint Committee meeting on August 10, 2011. Main activities included discussion of work plans, interest in member conference attendance, and a presentation by Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL's) three EM interns on the 2010 Environmental Surveillance Report.

Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Related Chair Activities since last NNM CAB meeting on July 27, 2011 included the following:

- a. A Chairs quarterly conference call was scheduled on September 19, 2011 to provide DOE/Environmental Management (EM) senior staff briefings on budget, waste disposition, EMAB and Chair local board updates. Also scheduled was a discussion of the agenda for the SSAB Chairs videoconference on October 20, 2011.

Other Related Chair Activities included the following:

- a. The Chair and Vice Chair were invited to meet on September 14, 2011 with Ms. Michelle Jacquez-Ortiz from Senator Tom Udall's staff to discuss items of importance to the CAB. This meeting provided for renewed contacts with the Senator's staff, review of CAB priorities, key recommendations, and funding to meet the Consent Order goals. Items of concern from the Senator's office included Risk Analysis, Communication, Evaluation, and Reduction (RACER) data and communication of monitoring stations damaged in post-fire flooding. Ms. Jacquez-Ortiz indicated the CAB could be helpful through recommendations in these areas. Ms. Santistevan agreed to provide her with previous CAB recommendations in these areas.
- b. The Chair was invited to participate in the annual Federal Facility Cleanup Dialog meeting hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC on September 21-22, 2011. A report on this meeting may be obtained by request from the CAB office at (505) 989-1662. Mr. Phelps reported on highlights of the meeting, which was attended by three CAB chairs from Hanford, Portsmouth, and Northern New Mexico. About 30 people were at the table, including the EPA and activist groups. The meeting focused on two issues:
 - 1. Use of the five-year review, which LANL does not currently have, but is something to keep in mind; and
 - 2. Selection of long-term monitoring for the sites – how they introduce long-term surveillance programs, how they are communicated to communities.

Mr. Phelps reported that problems around the country are similar to those found here in New Mexico, including getting people involved, communicating our message, etc. Mr. Gallegos clarified that the five-year review is for

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites, but Mr. Phelps confirmed that we could do that, or something similar, here. Mr. Bishop mentioned that the speaker, Tom Longo, might touch on some of those issues, but added that other sites monitor hazardous, not radioactive, waste, which is monitored separately. Thus, five-year reviews are not compulsory, as much of our closure activities are covered through those procedures.

3. NNM CAB Executive Director's Report

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

a. Board Membership Update:

The NNM CAB is currently comprised of 15 members, eight of whom are up for reappointment in November: Nicole Castellano, Lawrence Garcia, Jacquelyn Gutierrez, Lawrence Longacre, Caroline Mason, Manuel Pacheco, Carlos Valdez, and Robert Villarrael. Two other nominees were included in the nomination package and we hope to make site appointments for Mayor Lucero's nominees. The updated CAB Directory was included in meeting packets; members were asked to be sure that their contact information was correct.

b. Executive Committee Meetings:

The committee met on August 10, 2011, and September 14, 2011. The committee heard reports from the Chair, Committee Chairs, Co-DDFOs, and Executive Director. The committee finalized the agenda for this meeting and discussed draft recommendations for future CAB consideration as well as the NNM CAB office move. The committee also discussed the basis of the NNM CAB Initiative, which would increase NNM CAB membership to 27 and would focus more on Speakers' Bureau presentations and outreach.

c. Board Meeting Preparations:

Ms. Santistevan prepared and submitted agendas for this meeting and the notice to **The Federal Register**, in compliance with **The Federal Advisory Committee Act**.

Meeting materials were copied and collated by Ms. Roybal and meeting packets were mailed out on July 21, 2011. An advertisement for the meeting was placed in *The Taos News* by Ms. Roybal and on the NNM CAB website.

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

In lieu of a fall Chairs' meeting this year, a videoconference will be held on October 20, 2011 at the Los Alamos Site Office (LASO). Acting EM-1 David Huizenga is scheduled to speak, along with Joann Luczak giving a budget presentation, Frank Marcinowski giving a Technical and Regulatory Support update, and Marty Letourneau giving a Waste Management update. Each site will present its Top Three Issues and Accomplishments. The spring Chairs' meeting is scheduled in April and will be hosted by the Paducah CAB.

e. Outreach:

1 With the initiative of recruiting up to nine additional board members, Ms.
2 Santistevan reported she will be very busy recruiting applicants around northern
3 New Mexico. She will especially concentrate on recruiting members from the
4 surrounding pueblos and young people from local colleges and universities.
5 Members were asked to assist Ms. Santistevan with referrals of people who
6 might be interested.

7 f. WIPP Tour:

8 The tour of the WIPP site has been scheduled. The bus will leave from
9 Santa Fe early on November 7, 2011 and the tour of the site will take place the
10 morning of November 8. The bus will return to Santa Fe that evening.

11 g. Office Management:

12 Office space in Pojoaque has been identified for the new NNMCAB office
13 and LANL reading room. Ms. Roybal and Ms. Santistevan have been assisting
14 with projected costs for utilities, office equipment, etc. The office move is
15 scheduled for November. The staff supported all committee meetings with
16 preparation of notices, agendas, and committee minutes.

17 Karen Erickson has been hired to assist with NNMCAB support. She will
18 be preparing meeting minutes, updating the NNMCAB website, and preparing
19 NNMCAB newsletters and the Annual Report. She may be reached at
20 karen.erickson@nnsa.doe.gov or at (505) 988-1749.

21 h. Next Board Meeting

22 The next NNMCAB meeting will take place November 30, 2011 at the
23 Ohkay Owingeh Conference Center at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo.
24

25
26 **VIII. New Business**

27 **a. Consideration and Action on Committee Work Plans**

28 Mr. Gallegos asked, what has been added or changed since the committees
29 approved the plans? Rev. Gilchrist said that clarification was added, some items were
30 moved to different sections, mission statement goals were clarified, and long-term
31 stewardship was added.

32 **Mr. Gallegos moved to approve both work plans. Mr. Pacheco seconded the**
33 **motion. The work plans were unanimously approved.**

34 Mr. Phelps advised the members that the work plans should be considered fluid
35 documents that may change as needed throughout the year.
36

37 **b. Consideration and Action on Top Three Issues**

38 Mr. Phelps opened the floor for discussion of the Top Three Issues to be
39 presented at the next Chairs' meeting videoconference October 20, 2011 to the EM-1
40 Acting Assistant Secretary, David Huizenga.

41 Rev. Gilchrist made some wording suggestions to make things understandable,
42 which will be discussed in the next EMSR committee meeting.

43 Discussion ensued on precisely which and how much waste is included on the
44 second of the Top Three Issues, and how that work is funded. Mr. Longacre expressed a

1 desire to use stronger wording in the issues to give them more power, with which Rev.
2 Gilchrist agreed, adding a suggestion to use clearer language in the draft
3 recommendations. Mr. Worth explained that a liaison from the New Mexico
4 Environment Department (NMED) will be present at the CAB within a meeting or two,
5 and that increased funding demonstrates the recognition of the importance of the
6 board's role to act as advisories to DOE.

7 Mr. Gallegos moved to accept the Top Three Issues. Ms. Castellano seconded the
8 motion. The motion passed, with Mr. Longacre abstaining.

9
10 **c. Report from Nominating Committee**

11 Dr. Shaw announced that nominations have been received, but can still be
12 entertained from the floor. Mr. Gallegos withdrew his nomination for Chair. Vice Chair
13 nominees included Mr. Pacheco, Mr. Valdez, and Ms. Mason. Dr. Shaw moved to
14 nominate Mr. Phelps as Chair; Mr. N. Maestas seconded the motion. Mr. Pacheco
15 nominated Mr. Longacre for Chair, but Mr. Longacre declined the nomination. Mr
16 Phelps explained that while he supports term limits, under the circumstances he agreed
17 to run for Chair once again.

18
19 **d. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for FY2012**

20 Mr. Sayre moved to accept Mr. Phelps as Chair. Rev. Gilchrist seconded the
21 motion. Mr. Pacheco moved to close nominations for Chair. Rev. Gilchrist seconded the
22 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

23 Ms. Castellano moved to close nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Pacheco
24 seconded the motion. Ms. Santistevan collected written ballots and announced that the
25 new Vice Chair is Mr. Valdez effective Oct. 1.

26
27 **e. Discussion of NNMCAB Meeting Locations for 2012**

28 Locations for the six NNMCAB meetings in 2012 were presented. Mr. Maestas
29 inquired about the rationale of rotating the meeting locations and in particular holding a
30 meeting in Albuquerque, citing the importance of making it easy for CAB members to
31 attend. Mr. Gallegos cited the CAB's desire to dedicate a meeting to the subject of
32 surface water contaminant transfer issues that affect the Rio Grande in the Albuquerque
33 area.

34 Further discussion centered on publicizing meetings to maximize visibility to our
35 represented areas and to increase attendance. Rotating meeting locations is common
36 to other SSABs and has been done for many years.

37
38 **f. Appointing of Ad Hoc Committee for Annual Self-Evaluation**

39 Mr. Phelps requested three volunteers to serve on an ad hoc committee to
40 review the annual self-evaluation survey for the CAB. Survey results help the CAB make
41 changes based on self-appraisal of lessons learned. Dr. Shaw, Mr. Valdez, and Ms.
42 Castellano volunteered to serve on the committee.

43
44 **IX. Items from DDFOs**

1 Mr. Bishop reported on his attendance at the Radioactive Waste National
2 Summit. Christine Gelles at EM HQ reviewed upgraded Greater Than Class C (GTCC)
3 waste. Of note were Carlsbad City Council comments. Mr. Bishop also noted that the
4 NNMCAB had substantial comments that were being considered in the finalization of
5 the EIS and how to handle GTCC waste. This CAB is having an impact and influence on
6 where to dispose of GTCC waste. Carlsbad and LANL are both potential locations.

7 CAB Office Relocation: In October they will have a meeting discussing the
8 relocation of the CAB office. Contracts are going into place now. The office will be
9 located in Pojoaque, right off the highway. Any feedback is appreciated. A tour will be
10 held with the opportunity to give feedback to the architectural staff regarding the
11 offices, reading room, and conference room.

12 Transuranic (TRU) waste program: 168 shipments have been sent this year, with
13 two more sent to WIPP this week. This represents a record for LANL and another
14 recommendation of the CAB. A continuing resolution is moving through Congress now
15 to budget. A reduction of 10 percent is possible, but there is no danger of shutdown.

16 Reductions at WIPP: Funding at WIPP has been reduced and WIPP will be laying
17 off some employees. They are suspending shipments next year from Hanford and
18 Savannah River shipments will be very light, so they will need fewer staff. Idaho is
19 number one and LANL is number 2 for shipments next year, so the reduction in force
20 should not affect LANL's shipments; they might even increase.

21 The Hanford SSAB Chair attended the Radioactive Waste National Summit. As
22 meetings come up, the DDFOs will try to accommodate requests to attend. They will be
23 announced ahead of time. CAB members should contact Mr. Phelps or a member of the
24 Executive Committee to express an interest in going.

25 Mr. Maestas asked, how many more shipments are planned for this year? The
26 fiscal year ends in two days. As for the calendar year, they are trying to accelerate
27 shipments to five per week. WIPP typically stops receiving waste at Thanksgiving until
28 the new year for maintenance and to avoid shipping during winter weather. With seven
29 or eight more weeks until the shutdown, that means about 35 to 40 more shipments are
30 planned for this calendar year. Exact amount of waste is unclear; it depends on volume
31 in the drums more than the number of shipments.

32 Mr. Gallegos asked for clarification about Hanford's shipments. Mr. Bishop
33 clarified that Hanford will not be shipping anything to WIPP due to loss of funding in
34 FY2012. Mr. Gallegos asked if that increases our responsibility to meet the 97 percent
35 goal, and Mr. Bishop confirmed that that does put more pressure on us to perform
36 more, but that this is a positive thing for us in terms of shipments of waste off the hill
37 and also in terms of employment. A shipment includes up to three TRUPACs on a truck,
38 depending on how hot it is.

39 Mr. Worth introduced Pete Maggiore, LASO Deputy Assistant Manager for
40 Environmental Operations and former NMED secretary under Gov. Gary Johnson. He
41 will help with regulatory challenges.

42 Mr. Worth reported that two weeks ago, the last waste was removed from TA-
43 21. Governor Martinez had issued a letter describing her top priorities regarding LANL,
44 one of which was getting TRU waste off the hill while protecting ground and surface

1 water. The NNMCAB's recommendation helped get attention paid to that acceleration
2 of TRU waste removal. Mr. Maggiore said that he is working with Gov. Martinez's
3 administration and its priority on TRU waste removal, partly in response to the Las
4 Conchas fire.

5 Mr. Longacre asked if there is any indication when an NMED liaison will return to
6 the NNMCAB meetings. Mr. Worth reported that during their meeting, NMED promised
7 to have a representative here by the next meeting.

8 Mr. Maestas asked for an update on the "unnecessary" wells. Mr. Worth
9 reported that NMED asked for two additional wells at TA-54, although in his opinion
10 another well is not needed at TA-54 near Area G. A recent Corrective Measure
11 Evaluation (CME) just sent in recommended not installing another well, because
12 sometimes installing another well makes things more complicated. A well may be
13 considered in the future due to a different flow path.

14 Mr. Maestas asked about the status of recent CMEs and the scrutiny upon them.
15 Mr. Worth reported that he is optimistic and that they started a collaboration with
16 NMED recently to address their concerns. There has been no recent opportunity for
17 more dialogue, but he hopes this last revision will be the last, and that NMED will make
18 a decision soon. Mr. Gallegos clarified that these discussions are more related to long-
19 term stewardship.
20

21 **X. Presentation on Long-Term Stewardship: Presentation by Tom Longo, Subject Matter**
22 **Expert, DOE Headquarters (HQ)**

23 Mr. Longo presented an overview of DOE's long-term responsibilities related to
24 radiological protection, remediation, disposal, and/or stabilization of sites. Controls
25 include site surveillance and access control, record-keeping and information
26 management, inspections, water monitoring, maintenance of caps or entombed
27 buildings, signage, etc.

28 Main points of the presentation included the history of long-term stewardship
29 programs, regulatory and oversight challenges, extraordinary time requirements in the
30 thousands of years requiring communication across cultural and language barriers, and
31 current and planned future DOE programs with long-term stewardship involvement.

32 A printed copy of the presentation was included in the meeting packet and a
33 copy may be obtained by request from the CAB office at (505) 989-1662.
34

35
36 **XI. Public Comment Period**

37 Ms. Lucas stated that she finds the information very interesting, and a lot to
38 absorb. She commended the CAB for working so hard. Ms. Lopez stated that it was
39 very interesting.
40

41
42 **XII. Discussion of Draft Recommendation to DOE**

43 **a. Draft Recommendation 2011-06 (Tabled on 7/27/2011)**

1 Mr. Pacheco moved to take off the table and reconsider Draft Recommendation
2 2011-06. Dr. Shaw seconded the motion. The motion to take off the table and reconsider the
3 recommendation passed unanimously and discussion then ensued.

4 Mr. Villarrael provided a brief refresher of the recommendation for the CAB.
5 Among the points he addressed were: a) WIPP is the only repository prepared and able to
6 handle the type of waste cited in the recommendation; b) waste includes, for example,
7 decommissioned nuclear reactors that could represent a great risk if encountered by terrorists
8 or even the general public; c) a screening facility is needed to classify the waste coming in
9 before shipment to a permanent repository such as WIPP, and LANL has been doing this type of
10 screening work for several years.

11 The Board discussed possible other facilities that could serve as screening labs,
12 as well as how long the waste would stay at the screening lab before shipping to the permanent
13 repository, including waste identified as non-WIPP eligible. Members discussed the dilemma of
14 recommending more waste to be shipped to LANL when the NNMCAB's mission has mainly
15 revolved around getting waste off the hill, and how this recommendation could thus be
16 communicated in a positive light to the public, if passed.

17 Mr. Bishop and Mr. Villarrael explained the process of neutralizing the neutron
18 sources, clarifying that such neutralization only involves making the materials non-explosive
19 and separating the elements chemically, not changing the sources' radioactivity. Mr. Villarrael
20 reported that waste would typically be neutralized within several weeks to several months,
21 possibly up to 18 months, before shipment to WIPP. Waste not able to be shipped to WIPP
22 would stay at LANL until an alternative site was identified and ready to accept it. This new
23 waste for screening would represent an amount equal to half of a football field, waist deep, and
24 in addition to increased volume, an increased risk would also be involved, as these sources
25 could be from terrorist devices with greater explosive and contaminant dangers than the waste
26 currently being handled.

27 Mr. Gallegos pointed out that there is a current "hole" in the Environmental
28 Impact Statement (EIS) that fails to consider this issue of GTCC waste and where to store it
29 permanently. Mr. Bishop said that another EIS could be developed in the future to address
30 separate issues of a repository and a screening lab, with each possibly including four to five
31 different possible sites. Congress would also have to approve the use of WIPP for non-defense
32 related waste. Although Congress could theoretically reject WIPP as a repository, with the
33 NNMCAB's recommendation it would almost certainly be analyzed as a major alternative.

34 Concerns regarding the recommendation were discussed, including a) future
35 activity that might change the need for the recommendation; b) vague language excluding
36 mention of LANL specifically as the screening lab; and c) what would happen to waste not
37 eligible to be shipped to WIPP. Once identified as waste, the sources cannot be returned to
38 those that generated it.

39 Benefits to LANL to passing the recommendation, according to Mr. Bishop,
40 include jobs, promotion of the NNMCAB's mission, public health, and national security. Mr.
41 Villarrael added that he does not think there is any kind of waste that LANL could not handle
42 and neutralize in at least some manner, more safely and efficiently than any other facility.
43 Reasons for tabling or rejecting the recommendation, according to Rev. Gilchrist (also speaking
44 on behalf of Ms. Mason, who had expressed her concerns in an email sent to NNMCAB

members prior to the meeting), include the possible continuous stream of waste exceeding that which had already been identified, the potential for some waste to get stuck at LANL, the community's enthusiasm for getting waste **out** of Los Alamos, and the "hole" in the EIS previously mentioned.

XIII. Consideration and Action on Draft Recommendation to DOE

Mr. Phelps closed discussion of the recommendation and reviewed the rules, confirming that a quorum was present and explaining that a vote of 75 percent would be needed to approve the recommendation. Voting as "present" or abstaining from voting would not count in the vote totals, which would be conducted by a show of hands, with Ms. Erickson counting.

Members asked questions to clarify the title and language of the recommendation and whether the vote would be to approve LANL as the screening site. Because of the nonspecific title of the recommendation and other desired changes to the language therein, several members entertained the desirability of tabling the recommendation.

Ms. Castellano moved to table the vote on Draft Recommendation 2011-06 to the next meeting. Mr. Valdez seconded the motion. The motion passed with 11 ayes and 1 nay.

Ms. Santistevan explained that the recommendation could be voted upon at the next combined committee meeting scheduled for October 12 if a quorum were present there, and that she has already taken necessary measures for public notification.

XIII. Wrap-Up

Ms. Roybal distributed paperwork for travel reimbursement via direct deposit. CAB members were asked to give hotel receipts to Ms. Roybal for processing.

Mr. Phelps thanked Ms. Roybal, Ms. Erickson, and Mr. Roybal for their help during the meeting. Mr. Bishop thanked those present for a spirited debate.

XIV. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Bishop, Co-DDFO, adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted as a draft for review,



Ralph Phelps, Chair, NNMCAB


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

Attachments:

1. **Final 9-28-2011 NNMCAB Meeting Agenda**
2. **Final 7-27-2011 NNMCAB Meeting Minutes**
3. **Final Waste Management Committee 2012 Work Plan**
4. **Final Environmental Monitoring, Remediation & Surveillance Committee 2012 Work Plan**
5. **Report from Ralph Phelps, NNMCAB Chair**
6. **Report from Menice Santistevan, NNMCAB Executive Director**
7. **Top Three Issues for NNMCAB for 2012**
8. **Draft NNMCAB 2012 Board Meeting Schedule and Locations**
9. **PowerPoint Presentation, "Overview of DOE/NNSA Long-Term Stewardship Programs," presented by T.P. Longo, NNSA-HQ/NA-173, Office of Environmental Operations**
10. **Draft Recommendation 2011-06, "Statement that LANL Be Selected as a Screening Lab for Certain Greater Than Class C Low-Level Radioactive Wastes prior to Disposal at the WIPP Repository," drafted by the Waste Management Committee, primary author Robert Villarreal**

Public Notice:

 ***All NNMCAB meetings are recorded. Audiotapes have been placed on file for review at the NNMCAB Office, 1660 Old Pecos Trail, Suite B, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505.**

 ***Reference documents listed in the Appendix section of these minutes may be requested for review at the CAB office in Santa Fe. (505) 989-1662.**
