



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
Combined Committee Meeting
March 9, 2016
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
NNMCAB Office
94 Cities of Gold Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506



Minutes

Meeting Attendees

Department of Energy

1. Lee Bishop, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer
2. Michael Gardipe, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer
3. David Nickless, Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office

NNMCAB Members

1. Stephen Schmelling, EM&R Committee Chair
2. Angelica Gurulé, WM Committee Chair
3. Carlos Valdez
4. Doug Sayre
5. Danny Mayfield
6. Joey Tiano
7. Tessa Jo Mascareñas
8. Ashley Sanderson
9. Gerard Martínez y Valencia

NNMCAB Members Excused Absences

1. Rod Sanchez
2. Mary Friday
3. Angel Quintana
4. Irene Tse-Pe
5. Max Baca
6. Michael Whiting
7. Diahann Lopez-Cordova
8. Michael Valerio
9. Carla Abeyta
10. Mona Varela

NNMCAB Absences

1. Alex Puglisi

1 2. Joshua Madalena

2 **NNMCAB Staff**

- 3 1. Menice Santistevan, Executive Director
4 2. Bridget Maestas, Administrative Assistant
5 3. William Alexander, Technical Programs and Outreach

6
7 **Guests**

- 8 1. Peter Hyde, Los Alamos National Security
9 2. Steven Horak, Project Time & Cost, LLC.

- 1 ***All NNM CAB meetings are recorded. Audio CD's have been placed on file for review at the NNM CAB**
- 2 **office, 94 Cities of Gold Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87506. The written minutes are intended as a**
- 3 **synopsis of the meeting.**

1 **Minutes**

2 **I. Call to Order**

3 The monthly meeting of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB)
4 Waste Management (WM) and Environmental Monitoring & Remediation (EM&R)
5 Committees was held on March 9, 2016 at the NNMCAB Office in Pojoaque, New Mexico.

6 Mr. Lee Bishop, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer stated that on behalf of the
7 Department of Energy (DOE) the meeting of the NNMCAB was called to order at 2:06 p.m.
8 Mr. Bishop recognized Mr. Stephen Schmelling, EM&R Committee Chair, Mr. Schmelling
9 presided at the meeting.

10 The meeting of the NNMCAB was open to the public and posted in the Federal Register
11 in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

12 **II. Establishment of a Quorum (11 Needed)**

13 **a. Roll Call**

14 Mr. William Alexander conducted roll call as the members arrived. At the call
15 to order 9 members were present.
16
17

18 **b. Excused Absences**

19 Mr. Alexander recorded that the following members had an excused absence:
20 Ms. Carla Abeyta, Ms. Irene Tse-Pe, Ms. Mary Friday, Mr. Rod Sanchez, Mr. Max
21 Baca, Ms. Diahann Lopez-Cordova, Ms. Carla Abeyta, Ms. Mona Varela, Ms. Angel
22 Quintana, and Mr. Michael Valerio.

23 **c. Absences**

24 Mr. Alexander recorded that the following members were absent: Mr. Joshua
25 Madalena and Mr. Alex Puglisi.

26 **III. Approval of Agenda**

27 The Combined Committee (CC) reviewed the Agenda for the March 9, 2016 meeting.
28 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for comments.
29
30

31 Mr. Sayre made a motion to approve the agenda; Mr. Mayfield seconded the motion.
32 The motion to approve the agenda passed.

33 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

34 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for discussion on the minutes from the February 10,
35 2016 CC meeting.
36
37

38 Mr. Sayre made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Martínez y Valencia
39 seconded the motion. The members voted all in favor, the motion to approve the minutes
40 as presented passed.

41 **V. Introductions**

42 Mr. Schmelling asked for introductions from the board members and all attending
43 guests.
44
45

1 **VI. Old Business**

2 **a. Approval of FY'16 Committee Work Plans**

3 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for consideration and action on the FY'16 CC Work
4 Plans.

5
6 Mr. Schmelling gave an overview of the EM&R Committee Work Plan and noted that
7 the FY'16 Work Plan was similar to the FY'15 Work Plan. He noted that for this year
8 EM&R had broken out its activities into a priority list, with more focus on the chromium
9 issues at LANL and less on Material Disposal Area G and waste disposal. Mr. Schmelling
10 asked for a motion to approve the EM&R Committee Work Plan.

11
12 Mr. Sayre made a motion to approve the FY'16 EM&R Committee Work Plan as
13 presented; Mr. Mayfield seconded the motion. The members voted all in favor, the
14 motion to approve the FY'16 EM&R Committee Work Plan as presented passed.

15
16 Mr. Schmelling asked Ms. Gurulé if she would give an overview of the FY'16 WM
17 Committee Work Plan.

18
19 Ms. Gurulé stated that the WM Committee had made changes to the list of priorities
20 for the FY'16 Work Plan, moving monitoring and reporting on the status of the Waste
21 Isolation Pilot Plant Recovery (WIPP) up to number one.

22
23 Mr. Mayfield asked if it would be within the NNMCAB scope, to write a
24 recommendation on WIPP route improvements to the Rio Grande Bridge.

25
26 Mr. Bishop responded that as part of the WIPP transportation route from LANL it
27 would be acceptable for the NNMCAB to write a recommendation.

28
29 Ms. Gurulé noted that the FY'16 work plan would be amended to include a
30 recommendation for repair of the bridge at the Rio Grande for safe transport of
31 materials to WIPP.

32
33 Mr. Schmelling asked for a motion to approve the FY'16 WM Committee Work Plan as
34 amended.

35
36 Mr. Mayfield made a motion to approve the FY'16 WM Committee Work Plan as
37 amended; Mr. Sayre seconded the motion. The members voted all in favor, the motion
38 to approve the FY'16 WM Committee Work Plan as amended passed.

39
40 **b. Review FY'16 Combined Committee Meeting Schedule**

41 Mr. Bishop stated that the motion on the floor from the February 10, 2016 CC meeting
42 was to have one meeting a month, either a Committee Meeting or Board Meeting. Mr.

1 Bishop noted that without a quorum present at today's meeting, voting on the new
2 schedule would be moved to the March 30, 2016 Board meeting.

3 Mr. Schmelling noted that during the Executive Committee meeting on March 9, 2016
4 the committee had approved moving the date of the April CC meeting to April 27, 2016.
5 Additionally, noting that the meeting would be from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. as a trial run
6 of the newly proposed extended meeting length.

7
8 **VII. New Business**

9 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for additional discussion on Draft Recommendation
10 2016-02, "FY 2018 Budget Priorities." He noted that the current version before the members
11 incorporated all comments that had been received by the NNMCAB staff and author.
12 Additionally, noting that the recommendation addresses: chromium, nitrate salts, repacking
13 of waste, groundwater, RDX, TA-21, and waste stored at Waste Control Specialists.

14
15 Mr. Bishop noted that the FY'18 budget year would have a new Environmental
16 Management contractor conducting the environmental cleanup in Los Alamos.

17
18 Mr. Schmelling stated that additional changes should be submitted to the NNMCAB staff
19 or Mr. Valdez no later than March 16, 2016. He noted that the Draft Recommendation
20 would be on the March 30, 2016 Board meeting agenda for consideration and action.

21
22 With no additional new business to discuss Mr. Schmelling moved on to the next agenda
23 item.

24
25 **VIII. Update from DDFO**

26 Mr. Bishop stated that there were four NNMCAB members on travel. Mr. Bishop noted
27 that Ms. Mona Varela and Ms. Carla Abeyta were attending the Environmental Justice
28 Conference in Washington, D.C. and Mr. Michael Whiting, and Ms. Diahann Lopez-Cordova
29 were attending the Waste Management Symposia in Phoenix, Arizona.

30 Mr. Bishop noted that at the request of Mr. Valdez, he was providing information on
31 what the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board is. He noted that it is an appointed board
32 that reports to the Secretary of Energy. He stated that the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety
33 Board would be holding a hearing in Santa Fe on March 22, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
34 regarding the WIPP incident. Additionally, noting that the NNMCAB members were welcome
35 to attend as members of the public.

36 Mr. Bishop stated that at the March 30, 2016 meeting the New Mexico Environment
37 Department would be rolling out changes to the 2005 LANL Order on Consent, noting that
38 the NNMCAB would not be receiving a preview of that roll out before the meeting.

39 Mr. Bishop advised the members that construction on the chromium project is ongoing,
40 and that the NNMCAB may be able to tour the site sometime in the summer of 2016.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

IX. Presentation

a. Department of Energy Corrective Action

Mr. Dave Nickless, Department of Energy, Environmental Management Los Alamos, gave a presentation entitled, “Los Alamos National Laboratories Remediated Nitrate Salt Drums Safety Update.” An electronic copy of the presentation may be obtained from the NNMCAB website; <http://www.energy.gov/em/nnmcab>.

b. Questions

Mr. Valdez asked if there was a labeling system for the drums stored in Dome 375.

Mr. Nickless responded that yes there is a labeling system in place for waste drums at LANL.

Mr. Schmelling asked if there was any material packed between the drums in the standard waste box, such as zeolite.

Mr. Nickless stated that there is no packing materials between the drums and the standard waste box.

Mr. Sayre asked how many remediated nitrate salt drums are stored in Dome 375.

Mr. Nickless responded that there are 60 drums stored in Dome 375.

Mr. Sayre asked if the drums would be re-remediated in Dome 375.

Mr. Nickless responded that the remediation of the drums would take place at the Waste Characterization, Reduction, and Repackaging Facility.

Ms. Gurulé asked where the drums that are stored at Waste Control Specialists would be remediated.

Mr. Nickless stated that the location for that remediation project has not been determined; however, it will likely be conducted using a mobile repackaging system.

Mr. Sayre asked if LANL was worried about pressure buildup in the drums.

Mr. Nickless responded that yes, it was determined that pressure was an important factor in the reaction that caused the drum at WIPP to breach. He noted that the new high capacity High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter, with the pressure release disk, will be installed on the drums to mitigate the possibility of pressure build up in the drums.

1 Ms. Gurulé asked if the filter is able to filter radiation.

2
3 Mr. Nickless responded that the HEPA filter is able to catch and contain radiologically
4 contaminated particulates, not radiation itself.

5
6 Mr. Tiano asked if the new filter attachment would be disposed of as scrap.

7
8 Mr. Nickless stated that the filter assembly would be disposed of as radiological
9 waste.

10
11 Mr. Schmelling asked if the drums will still fit in the standard waste box with the new
12 filter assembly attached.

13
14 Mr. Nickless replied no, the drums will be in the standard waste box; however, the lid
15 of the standard waste box will not be in place.

16
17 Ms. Gurulé asked if a 75 foot fire break was enough distance for comprehensive fire
18 mitigation.

19
20 Mr. Nickless noted that 75 feet is a minimum distance. Additionally, stating that there
21 is little to no vegetation around Dome 375.

22
23 Mr. Schmelling asked if there was a protocol in place for the remediation of the
24 nitrate salt drums.

25
26 Mr. Nickless responded that yes, there is a protocol in place; however, it will be
27 approximately one year, before the remediation can be executed.

28
29 Mr. Schmelling asked if DOE could give the NNMCAB a presentation on the next steps
30 for the remediation of the nitrate salt waste.

31
32 Mr. Nickless responded that DOE would be happy to provide that presentation at a
33 future meeting.

34
35 **X. Public Comment Period**

36 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for public comment at 3:40 p.m., with no members of
37 the public present Mr. Schmelling closed the comment period at 3:40 p.m.

38
39 **XI. Adjournment**

40 Mr. Schmelling noted that the next NNMCAB CC Meeting would be held on April 27,
41 2016 at the NNMCAB office from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1 With no additional business to discuss, Mr. Schmelling adjourned the meeting at 3:45
2 p.m.

3
4

Respectfully Submitted,

5 **William Alexander**
6 **Technical Programs and Outreach**

7
8

Attachments:

- 9 **1. Final Combined Committee Meeting Agenda for 03/09/2016**
- 10 **2. Final Combined Committee Meeting Minutes for 02/10/2016**
- 11 **3. Draft Recommendation 2016-02 "FY'17 Budget Priorities"**
- 12 **4. FY'16 Committee Work Plans**
- 13 **5. Presentation by DOE, "Los Alamos National Laboratory Remediated Nitrate Salt Drums Safety**
14 **Update"**
- 15 **6. FY'16 Combined Committee Meeting Schedule**
- 16 **7. Informational flyer for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board "Who Are We"**

17
18 ***All NNM CAB meetings are recorded. Audio CD's have been placed on file for review at the NNM CAB**
19 **office, 94 Cities of Gold Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87506. The written minutes are intended as a**
20 **synopsis of the meeting.**