



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting  
February 13, 2013  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
NNMCAB Conference Room  
Pojoaque, New Mexico

## MINUTES

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### Meeting Attendees:

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#### U.S. Department of Energy:

1. Christina Houston, DOE Environmental Projects Office
2. Hai Shen, DOE Environmental Projects Office

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#### NNMCAB Members:

1. Carlos Valdez, NNMCAB Chair
2. Douglas Sayre, Environmental Monitoring & Remediation Committee Chair
3. Joseph Viarrial, Environmental Monitoring & Remediation Committee Vice-Chair
4. Arthur Mascarenas, Waste Management Committee Vice-Chair
5. Bonnie Lucas
6. Robert Villarreal
7. Nicole Castellano
8. Deborah Shaw
9. Lawrence Garcia

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#### NNMCAB Support Staff:

Menice Santistevan, Executive Director  
William Alexander, Technical Programs and Outreach

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#### Guests:

Allan Chaloupka, Public  
Stephen Schmelling, Public  
David Fuehne, LANS  
Andrew Green, LANS

**I. Call to Order**

The monthly meeting of the Environmental Monitoring and Remediation (EMR), and Waste Management (WM) committees was held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) office in Pojoaque, New Mexico. Mr. Doug Sayre, Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and presided over the meeting.

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**II. Approval of Agenda**

The Combined Committee reviewed the agenda for the February 13, 2013 meeting. Ms. Nicole Castellano made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Dr. Deborah Shaw seconded the motion. The agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved as presented.

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**III. Approval of Minutes**

The Combined Committee reviewed the minutes from the January 9, 2013 meeting. Mr. Carlos Valdez made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Arthur Mascarenas seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the January 9, 2013 minutes.

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**IV. Old Business**

Mr. Sayre opened the floor for discussion on questions regarding the 33 Shafts.

Mr. Valdez stated the members need to ask what type of monitoring is being done to ensure that material capsulated in the shafts is still encapsulated and safe.

Mr. Lawrence Garcia stated that the NNMCAB needs to ask what are the 33 Shafts encapsulated in, we need the specific details.

Mr. Allan Chaloupka noted that he understood that the Department of Energy (DOE) was planning to complete the NEPA process on the 33 Shafts by 2015. He would encourage the NNMCAB look into how the NEPA process works and how it fits into the Corrective Measures Evaluation requirement in the Consent Order.

Mr. Valdez noted that the 33 Shafts fall in the domain of Area G, he noted that there is a section of the Consent Order that deals with below ground Transuranic waste located at Area G.

Mr. Chaloupka also noted that the NNMCAB should ask if the contractor is taking advantage of any complex lessons learned and applying them to the 33 Shafts.

Ms. Castellano noted that the NNMCAB may want to look at what best practices Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) supplies to the contractors, if any.

Mr. Chaloupka stated that characterization of the waste of would be very important. He noted that LANL would likely need to take into account the cost of characterization under the

current waste acceptance criteria. He referenced the surprises that had been encountered at Material Disposal Area B when the waste was removed, and the cost of re-characterization.

Mr. Bob Villarreal stated that he would like to respond to the questions asked. He noted that LANL has considerable data on the shafts, in addition to information that was obtained from interviews with the individuals that were on the project. Mr. Villarreal noted that the question of a possible leak, and the answer to that question would be very important.

Mr. Sayre noted that the committee members needed to gain knowledge on the 33 Shafts to facilitate the writing of recommendations to DOE.

Mr. Villarreal stated that the individual that worked on the reactor that was disposed of in one of the 33 Shafts would be glad to come and talk to the NNMCAB on the subject. Mr. Villarreal also noted that to his knowledge the 33 Shafts are not monitored.

Mr. Sayre stated that at the next full board meeting an hour and a half had been devoted to the subject of the 33 Shafts.

Ms. Bonnie Lucas noted that the more information that is gathered going in; the greater the possibility is that LANL will be able to address the issue in the most economical and budget conscientious way.

With no further old business the committee moved on to the next item on the agenda.

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**V. New Business**

Mr. Sayre noted that Cate Alexander the Designated Federal Officer from DOE would be attending the NNMCAB March Board meeting. He stated she would be addressing the member's questions on Citizens Advisory Board appointment processes.

Mr. Sayre stated that there would be a tour of the Buckman Direct Diversion the morning of May 22<sup>th</sup>, 2013 before the NNMCAB afternoon meeting. He also noted that a LANL tour was on the NNMCAB's agenda for future tours; however, the date was still to be determined.

Ms. Menice Santistevan asked that members, who would need a room for the March meeting, contact her to request a room.

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**VI. Update from Executive Committee**

Mr. Valdez stated the Executive Committee was waiting on fact sheets for Material Disposal Areas: C, H, L, and M. He noted that once the fact sheets were received the NNMCAB could start working on recommendations for the Material Disposal Areas.

Mr. Valdez noted that for the Chairs meeting in April the Executive Committee was looking for the top three issues facing the NNMCAB. These issues would be topics of discussion at the Chairs meeting.

**VII. Update from DDFO**

Ms. Christina Houston was the representative from DOE at this meeting. Ms. Houston noted that she had 14 items from the Executive Committee meeting that she would be acting on, and 7 additional items from the Combined Committee. She also noted that Juan Griego who was scheduled to stop by the meeting this afternoon would be unable to attend.

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**VIII. Presentation on Air Monitoring at LANL, Mr. Dave Fuehne , LANS**

A. Mr. Dave Fuehne gave a presentation to the NNMCAB on "Air Monitoring at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Surrounding Sites". A copy of the presentation may be requested by contacting the NNMCAB office at (505)989-1662, or on the NNMCAB website at <http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm>.

B. Questions

Mr. Sayre asked how many air monitoring stations LANL has.

Mr. Andrew Green replied that it depends on the projects that are currently going on, but that on average its 46.

Dr. Deborah Shaw asked how you distinguish local air contamination from global transport.

Mr. Green replied that as part of the compliance program LANL has background stations that are 10 miles from the Lab. He also noted that data accumulated over the life of the project also helps in distinguishing background.

Mr. Garcia asked if wind conditions caused fluctuations in data.

Mr. Fuehne replied that since data is collected on a weekly or biweekly basis differences are often smeared over the time frame, so fluctuations due to wind are not easily discernible.

Mr. Garcia asked if the particles were separated by size.

Mr. Fuehne replied that LANL looks at gross particulate not at particulate size.

Dr. Shaw asked what labs the Tribes use for the analytical analyses on their air samples.

Mr. Green replied that some of the Tribes try to copy LANL, and LANL uses ALS and Paragon.

Mr. Garcia asked if on a high wind day if particulates escape how far from LANL they will travel.

Mr. Fuehne replied that the distance traveled would be a function of the size of the particle. He also noted that LANL does use modeling software to model how far plumes may travel.

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**IX. Public Comment**

Mr. Sayre opened the floor for comments from the public, seeing none the public comment period was closed.

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**X. Adjournment**

Mr. Sayre stated that the next Combined Committee meeting would be on March 13, 2013 from 2p.m. to 4p.m. at the NNMCAB office.

Ms. Santistevan noted that the presentation for the meeting would be on the 3706 Campaign.

Committee members suggested that during the next Combined Committee meeting sometime should be allotted to developing questions for the 33 Shafts presentation, and for the DFO Cate Alexander.

Ms. Santistevan noted that the quarterly review for the committee work plans was coming up; she asked that each member be sent a copy of the 2013 work plan.

With no additional business the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

William Alexander  
Technical Programs and Outreach