



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting

January 9, 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. **Ed Worth, Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)**

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**NNMCAB Members:**

1. **Carlos Valdez, NNMCAB Chair**
2. **Manuel Pacheco, NNMCAB Vice-Chair**
3. **Joey Tiano, Waste Management Committee Chair**
4. **Arthur Mascarenas, Waste Management Committee Vice-Chair**
5. **Robert Villarreal**
6. **Nona Girardi**
7. **Adam Duran**
8. **Michael Loya**
9. **Allison Majure**
10. **Ralph Phelps**

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**NNMCAB Support Staff:**

**Menice Santistevan, Executive Director**

**William Alexander, Technical Programs and Outreach**

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**Guests:**

**Stephen Schmelling, Public**

**Adrian Chavez Sr., Public**

**Allan Chaloupka, Public**

**Richard Mirenda, LANS**

**Lorrie Bonds Lopez, LANS**

**I. Call to Order**

The monthly meeting of the Environmental Monitoring and Remediation (EMR), and Waste Management (WM) committees was held on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) office in Pojoaque, New Mexico. Mr. Joey Tiano, Waste Management Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and presided at the meeting.

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**II. Committee Business Items**

- a. The agenda for the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting was approved by the members.
  - b. The Minutes for the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting were approved by the members.
  - c. Voting to approve the minutes for the September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 NNMCAB meeting was on the agenda. The committee members voted to approve the minutes; however, the committee members were not able to approve the minutes as the required quorum (11 Members) was not present. The minutes will be voted on at the NNMCAB meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
  - d. Consideration of action on the draft recommendations from the EM-SSAB Chairs meeting was on the Agenda. The committee members voted on and passed the four draft recommendations; however, the necessary quorum was not present at the meeting, the vote on the draft recommendations was invalidated. A new vote on the recommendations will be conducted at the NNMCAB meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
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**III. New Business**

Mr. Carlos Valdez stated that the NNMCAB had talked about polling all the members on the topic of the 33 Shafts. He noted that the 33 Shafts seem to be a project that Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is actively working on. Mr. Valdez stated that there were several options on the table as a path forward for the 33 Shafts. Option 1 being to leave the waste in place, option 2 removal of the waste, or option 3 leaving some waste in place and removing some portions of the waste. Mr. Valdez noted that he would like to hear from the other board members regarding the 33 Shafts.

Mr. Mike Loya stated that LANL doesn't know the classification of the waste at the 33 Shafts, and it would not be cost effective to remove the waste.

Mr. Bob Villarreal stated that LANL knows a lot about the waste and has analyzed all of the 33 shafts. He noted that he would like to see it removed, "to leave it in place is to throw your hands up and say it's too hard," it would be very difficult to explain that to the Tribe. LANL has done many cost estimates on removal expense, ranging from expensive to more economical, and I don't think that any have been pursued.

Mr. Manual Pacheco noted that at the last NNMCAB meeting that DOE officials stated that the 33 Shafts were on the list of priorities. He stated that one of the methods discussed during that meeting, would be to extract the shafts. It was noted that work on the 33 Shafts would be contingent on available budget.

Mr. Ed Worth stated that the Corrective Measures Evaluation plan for Material Disposal Area G states that all Transuranic Waste will be removed; the 33 Shafts could easily fall into that category. He also noted that the 33 Shafts will be going through a public NEPA process, to allow for an informed decision on the path forward.

Dr. Girardi asked if the NNMCAB should wait for the NEPA process and the public presentations for information before making a recommendation, and what would be happening to the area after remediation.

Mr. Worth stated that he would provide the NNMCAB with information as it became available. Mr. Worth also noted that the land would likely remain DOE for the foreseeable future; it would not be turned over to Los Alamos County or the Pueblo.

Mr. Joey Tiano asked if the NNMCAB would be making a recommendation once the NEPA process is completed.

Mr. Valdez noted that it would be a definite possibility, the NNMCAB could make recommendations on this issue as soon as tomorrow provided the group could reach a consensus.

Mr. Ralph Phelps asked if it was possible for the NNMCAB to come to a compromise on the 33 Shafts, such as removing some of the 33 Shafts and leaving others in place, based on the waste classification and information available for each individual shaft.

Mr. Pacheco noted that the NNMCAB has a recommendation on the 33 Shafts in the queue, and should look at the recommendation and corresponding DOE response before expending additional resources on a new recommendation.

Mr. Villarreal noted that the last cost estimate provided by the NNMCAB to DOE proposed \$50 million dollars to remove the 33 Shafts. He stated "if that was the cost it would be worthwhile for LANL to go forward with the removal."

Mr. Adam Duran stated that the Pueblo should be made aware of the environmental and monitoring issues that the 33 Shafts would pose. He noted that his primary concern would be making sure that the job is done properly, and that all required procedures are followed.

Mr. Worth noted that DOE also performed a Performance Assessment Composite Analyses (PACA) on the site. DOE was briefed on it approximately two years ago and the assessment could be pulled up and a presentation given to the NNMCAB.

Mr. Villarreal noted that the only place the materials from the 33 Shafts could go would be the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). He also noted that no one knows how long the WIPP site will remain open.

Mr. Tiano stated that with no additional new business to discuss, the committee would hear a presentation from LANL.

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**IV. Presentation on Biological and Human Health Assessments, Rich Mirenda, LANS**

Mr. Rich Mirenda gave a presentation to the NNMCAB on Overview of Risk Assessment Approach used by LANL. A copy of the presentation may be requested by contacting the NNMCAB office at (505)989-1662. The presentation has also been posed to the NNMCAB website <http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm>.

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**V. Update from Executive Committee**

Mr. Valdez stated that the Executive Committee talked about member travel. He noted that members would be traveling to the Waste Management Conference in February, and in April members would be traveling to the Chairs meeting hosted by Hanford. He also noted that the Executive Committee was looking at the possibility of a trip to WIPP likely sometime in November 2013.

Mr. Valdez stated that the Executive Committee is looking into sponsoring a public forum or workshop and would like to have the NNMCAB members provide ideas for the forum. Members who have suggestions for the forum should provide them to Ms. Menice Santistevan.

Mr. Valdez stated that the NNMCAB would still need to vote on the four national recommendations, and that he believed that the NNMCAB was the only Board that had not voted on the recommendations. He also noted that the NNMCAB would be working on creating fact sheets, and providing them to the new members, and current members.

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**VI. Update from DDFO**

Mr. Worth stated that a list of possible presentations for the upcoming NNMCAB meetings is being worked on. A fly over radiation survey of LANL was highlighted as a

presentation that might be of particular interest. Another presentation that was discussed was a presentation on air monitoring and how it is handled at LANL. Mr. Worth also suggested a presentation on Material Deposal Area C which was completed last September. He noted that at the next meeting he was working on a presentation on the 50 year stewardship plan, to be presented by Michael Brandt.

Mr. Worth would like to have a briefing on the major sites, to get the NNMCAB board members up to speed on what has happened at LANL, and what is still on the schedule.

Mr. Worth informed the Board that Jim Davis from NMED was retiring and would be replaced by Tom Skibinski.

Ms. Lorrie Bonds-Lopez noted that there was a possibility of a new member tour of LANL in April, which would include a LANL 101 presentation and overview of the site.

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**VII. Public Comment**

Mr. Tiano opened the public comment period.

Mr. Al Chaloupka asked about the status of the nominations for the new board members.

Mr. Worth responded that the packet had been submitted to DOE Headquarters; a response to the packets is expected sometime in late March.

Mr. Chaloupka commented on the 33 Shafts noting it was important to keep in mind that there is a difference in repackaging for disposal and ultimate disposal. He suggested that the board look into is there a disposal path for the material. Mr. Chaloupka further suggested that the board get a briefing on what the NEPA process is and how it impacts the 33 Shafts.

Mr. Chaloupka also noted that the attendees of the Chairs meeting to be held at Hanford might talk to the local individuals about solid waste management units (SWMU) 6, 18, 10, and 11; these are shafts that Hanford is working on.

Mr. Pacheco suggested that the NNMCAB notify Susan Leckbond at the Hanford CAB so that a response to the SWMUs in question would be available at the Chairs meeting.

Mr. Worth suggested that a short presentation on the NEPA process could be added to the agenda for the NNMCAB meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Mr. Villarreal asked about a story in the paper stating that the WIPP trucks would no longer be monitored.

Ms. Santistevan stated that it was only the state police that would no longer be monitoring the WIPP trucks. The monitoring done by DOE would continue unchanged, DOE would continue monitoring the WIPP trucks 24/7.

Mr. Valdez asked Ms. Allison Majure if she could work with Mr. Chaloupka to draft a recommendation asking Headquarters to look at the path forward for the 33 Shafts.

Ms. Majure replied that she would work on a recommendation with Mr. Chaloupka, using the available characterization data.

Mr. Worth responded that he would get an update on the requested information and provide it to the NNMCAB.

With no additional public comment Mr. Tiano closed the Public comment period.

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**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

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**Respectfully submitted,**

**William Alexander**  
**Technical Programs and Outreach**