



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting
August 14, 2013
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
NNMCAB Conference Room
Pojoaque, New Mexico

MINUTES

Meeting Attendees

U.S. Department of Energy

1. Lee Bishop, Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)
 2. Christina Houston, DOE Environmental Projects Office
 3. Ray Wood, DOE Environmental Projects Office
 4. Ramoncita Massey, DOE Environmental Projects Office
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NNMCAB Members

1. Carlos Valdez, NNMCAB Chair
 2. Manuel Pacheco, NNMCAB Vice-Chair & Waste Management Committee Vice-Chair
 3. Doug Sayre, Environmental Monitoring & Remediation Committee Chair
 4. Joseph Villarreal, Environmental Monitoring & Remediation Committee Vice-Chair
 5. Stephen Schmelling
 6. Nona Girardi
 7. Bonnie Lucas
 8. Gerard Martinez
 9. Ashley Sanderson
 10. Michael Loya
 11. Robert Villarreal
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NNMCAB Student Members

1. Kaitlin Martinez
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NNMCAB Support Staff

- Menice Santistevan, Executive Director
Tiffany Ortiz, Administrative Assistant
William Alexander, Technical Programs and Outreach
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- 1 **Guests**
- 2 Scott Kovac, Nuclear Watch New Mexico
- 3 Patti Jones, LANS
- 4

1 **I. Call to Order**

2 The Combined meeting of the Environmental Monitoring and Remediation (EM&R), and
3 Waste Management (WM) committees was held on August 14, 2013 at the Northern New
4 Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) office in Pojoaque, New Mexico. Mr. Doug Sayre,
5 EM&R Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and presided over the meeting.

6
7 **II. Approval of Agenda**

8 The Combined Committee (CC) reviewed the agenda for the August 14, 2013 meeting. Mr.
9 Gerard Martinez made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Mr. Manuel Pacheco
10 seconded the motion. The agenda for the August 14, 2013 meeting was unanimously approved.

11
12 **III. Approval of Minutes**

13 The CC reviewed the minutes for the July 10, 2013 meeting. Mr. Stephen Schmelling stated
14 that the word "statics" on page 3 line 33 should be "statistics." Mr. William Alexander noted the
15 change to the minutes. Mr. Pacheco made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Mr.
16 Martinez seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes, as amended passed.

17
18 **IV. Old Business**

19 Mr. Sayre asked the members to review the FY'13 Committee Work Plans that were
20 included in the August 14, 2013 CC meeting packets, in preparation for work on the FY'14 Work
21 Plans at the upcoming September 10, 2013 CC meeting.

22 Mr. Sayre noted that the committees would have a breakout session during the September
23 10, 2013 meeting to work on their respective work plans. To expedite work on the plans he
24 asked that the members have comments and revisions ready before the September CC meeting.

25
26 Ms. Menice Santistevan noted that the FY'14 Work Plans would be on the agenda for final
27 adoption at September 25, 2013 Board meeting in Taos.

28
29 Mr. Carlos Valdez stated that on the Waste Management Work Plan he felt that item two
30 should be moved up to item one and the current item one (TA-21) be replaced with a new item.

31
32 Mr. Lee Bishop stated that TA-21 Material Disposal Area (MDA) B was ready for final survey
33 work to start, with analyses planned to be completed in the fall and the transition to the county
34 in the next year or so. Mr. Bishop noted that an additional 40 acres still needs to be addressed
35 (the Plutonium and Tritium plants), he stated that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
36 funds took the buildings down to slab; however left the foundations and associated
37 infrastructure to be remediated at a later date. Mr. Bishop also noted that discussions regarding
38 removal of the water towers at TA-21 had occurred, and the current proposed method was to
39 cut down the towers.

40
41 Mr. Valdez asked if there were drain pipes at 21 going into the canyon
42

1 Mr. Bishop stated that yes there were outfalls to the canyons, he noted that at the time TA-
2 21 was in operation outfalls to the canyons were standard practice.

3
4 Mr. Martinez asked if the water towers had any historical significance.

5
6 Mr. Bishop responded that one of the towers in question is the original tower for the TA-21
7 area; however, at this point no parties have asked to salvage the tower. He noted that the
8 historical society would be taking photos and that a drawing of the tower would also be stored
9 in the archives.

10
11 Mr. Martinez stated that he felt it was the job of the NNMCAB to make sure that it keeps in
12 mind questions on the cultural significance of the areas being remediated, in addition to
13 questions on the remediation of those areas.

14
15 With no additional comments Mr. Sayre moved to new business.

16
17 **V. New Business**

18 Mr. Sayre asked the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) permit modification Ad Hoc
19 committee to give an update. He noted that the Ad Hoc committee members were Mr. Valdez,
20 Mr. Schmelling, Mr. Bob Villarreal, Mr. Adrian Chavez, and Mr. Alex Puglisi.

21
22 Mr. Valdez stated that the committee would like to wait on writing a comment letter
23 regarding the proposed modification until the Ad Hoc Committee is able to attend one of the
24 public meetings on the WIPP permit modification. He noted that at this point the public
25 meetings have not been scheduled so the committee would wait for information on when and
26 where the public meetings would be held.

27
28 Mr. Schmelling noted that as of August 13, 2013 the WIPP web site did not have any
29 information when a public meeting regarding the modification would take place.

30
31 Mr. Scott Kovac stated that there was another WIPP permit modification in line before the
32 WIPP permit modification regarding Hanford Waste. He noted that from what he knew the WIPP
33 permit modification the NNMCAB was concerned with would be six months to a year down the
34 road.

35
36 Mr. Valdez noted that Mr. Villarreal had expressed an interest in having the NNMCAB offer
37 to help with the Hanford Waste.

38
39 Mr. Villarreal responded that there is technology that is available that could help Hanford in
40 detecting leaking tanks; noting that the technology had been developed by him.

1 Mr. Sayre noted that a report on what Hanford is doing to identify leaking tanks and which
2 tanks are leaking would be very helpful.

3
4 Mr. Schmelling asked how close WIPP was to capacity.

5
6 Mr. Bishop responded that WIPP had just been given approval to open up panel number 7
7 of the 10 planned. He stated that it could be approximated that WIPP is close to 60 percent
8 capacity moving toward 70 percent capacity, noting that the capacity was the regulated capacity
9 for the site not the physical capacity of the site.

10
11 Dr. Nona Girardi asked how much space is saved on LANLs current space requirements at
12 WIPP, under the new process of decontamination of boxes and shipment to Waste Control
13 Specialists (WCS) instead of to WIPP.

14
15 Mr. Bishop responded that for FY'13 1800 m³ were planned to be shipped to WIPP of that
16 approximately 400 m³ have been decontaminated to levels that are acceptable for disposal at
17 WCS. He stated that is a 20% reduction on the space requirements for LANL waste at WIPP for
18 FY'13. He also noted that the disposal at WCS is about one third of the cost.

19
20 Mr. Valdez asked Mr. Kovac if he could elaborate on the WIPP permit modification that is in
21 front of the Hanford WIPP permit modification.

22
23 Mr. Kovac responded that the permit modification in front of the Hanford modification is a
24 Class III permit modification with three parts, regarding: panel reconfiguration, closure of
25 individual panels, and reduction in required monitoring.

26
27 With no additional new business Mr. Sayre closed new business.

28
29 **VI. Update from Executive Committee**

30 Mr. Valdez stated that the NNMCAB Bylaws had been revised in 2008; he noted that the
31 Executive Committee had discussed revising and updating the Bylaws. Mr. Valdez proposed an
32 Ad Hoc Committee be formed to look into updating the document. He noted that the Executive
33 Committee would be asking if Mr. Ralph Phelps would head the proposed committee, in
34 addition Ms. Alison Majure, Mr. Sayre and Ms. Deborah Shaw would be asked to serve on the Ad
35 Hoc Committee.

36
37 Mr. Sayre noted that the committee should also consider a section regarding student
38 members and their roles on the board.

39
40 Ms. Santistevan noted that Headquarters would review the final document before the
41 changes would take effect.

1 Mr. Bishop stated that the committee might also look at clarifying that minutes are a
2 summary of the meeting, and the record of the meeting is captured in the audio/video
3 recordings.
4

5 Mr. Valdez asked the members to consider issues and accomplishments that they would like
6 to have the Chair present at the EM-SSAB-Chairs meeting in October. He also asked that the
7 members let the Executive Committee know if Wednesdays are a good day to hold the CC
8 meetings or if a different day of the week would be better for the meetings in FY'14.
9

10 **VII. Update from DOE**

11 Mr. Bishop asked that the members try to attend the upcoming September 10, 2013
12 meeting at the Cities of Gold Conference Center.

13 Mr. Bishop noted that the presentation at the Board meeting in Taos would be on WIPP and
14 how the inventory is managed; additionally that for the October CC meeting the proposed
15 presentation was on National Resource Defense Act (NRDA). He stated that the Executive
16 Committee had discussed presentations for future meetings, which included topics on: below
17 grade retrieval, chromium remediation, the 3706 Campaign, quarterly groundwater monitoring,
18 surface runoff issues including Santa Clara property and the proposed Pojoaque intake. He
19 asked the members if there were any other subjects they would like to have presentations on.
20

21 Mr. Sayre asked if there were other areas that would need to be considered for below grade
22 retrieval.
23

24 Mr. Bishop responded that the NNMCAB would also need to consider areas at TA-21, noting
25 that those areas would be Material Disposal Area T and the Generals Tanks.
26

27 Mr. Villarreal asked where the sodium fuel for the lamprey reactor had ended up.
28

29 Mr. Bishop stated that he did not know the answer; however, he would look into it and see
30 if he could get the NNMCAB an answer.
31

32 **VIII. Presentation on IG Report and MDA Fire Fact Sheet**

33 Ms. Ramoncita Massey and Mr. Bishop gave a presentation to the CC on "Material Disposal
34 Areas and the Threat of Wildfire, including relevant sections of the Inspector General Audit
35 Report on Mitigation of Natural Disasters at Los Alamos National Labs". A copy of the
36 presentation may be requested by contacting the NNMCAB office at (505)989-1662, or on the
37 NNMCAB website at <http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm>
38

39 Mr. Bishop stated that included in the presentation was the new Los Alamos National
40 Laboratory Fact Sheet on Material Disposal Areas and the Threat of Wildfire. Mr. Bishop noted
41 that the fact sheet had been generated in response to NNMCAB recommendation 2013-02.
42

1 The NNM CAB members responded that the Fact sheet contained great information and that
2 as a whole the NNM CAB would like to see the fact sheet made available to the public, through
3 web postings, newspapers and other public outreach.

4
5 **IX. Public Comment Period**

6 Mr. Sayre opened the public comment period at 3:37 p.m.

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8 Mr. Kovac stated that he would like to request that the NNM CAB keep some time open in its
9 schedule for the upcoming MDA G statement of basis from NMED. He noted that it was likely
10 that NMED would agree with the LANL proposal to cap and cover MDA G. Mr. Kovac asked that
11 the members keep in mind that MDA G has: 32 pits, 194 shafts, and 4 trenches, with a total of
12 1,000,000 m³ of waste calculated by the total volume excavated to create the disposal sites. He
13 noted that Nuke Watch considers MDA G a low level waste dump only in that LANL stopped
14 dumping high level waste into MDA G in 1985 when the regulations for disposal sites changed;
15 stating that before 1985 everything went into MDA G area from hot cell waste to uranium,
16 including irretrievable TRU waste.

17 Mr. Kovac asked that the NNM CAB take some time to investigate what other options may
18 be available, besides the proposed cap and cover. Mr. Kovac thanked the NNM CAB members for
19 their time and consideration on the matter.

20
21 Mr. Villarreal asked if that meant that the 33 Shafts at MDA G would be part of the cap and
22 cover.

23
24 Mr. Bishop responded that the 33 Shafts are considered retrievable TRU waste and are not
25 part of the MDA G Corrective Measures Evaluation (CME).

26
27 The members asked if DOE would provide a briefing on the MDA G CME.

28
29 Mr. Bishop proposed that the briefing be added to the November board meeting agenda.

30
31 Mr. Sayre closed public comment at 3:45 p.m.

32
33 **X. Adjournment**

34 Mr. Sayre stated that the next CC meeting would be held September 10, 2013 at the Cities
35 of Gold Conference Center from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. He also noted that the next Board
36 meeting would be September 25, 2013 at the Sagebrush Inn and Conference Center in Taos
37 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Sayre advised the members that the WIPP and WCS tour would
38 be November 4th through the 6th.

39
40 Ms. Santistevan noted that several years ago the NNM CAB had sponsored a forum on MDA
41 G and noted that the NNM CAB may want to consider hosting another forum on the issue, or
42 offering a NNM CAB meeting for one of the public meetings regarding MDA G issues.

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With no additional comments Mr. Sayre adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

William Alexander

Technical Programs and Outreach