



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting
May 8, 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. Hai Shen, DEO Environmental Projects Office
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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. Doug Sayre, Environmental Monitoring & Remediation Committee Chair
 5. Stephen Schmelling
 6. Alex Puglisi
 7. Angel Quintana
 8. Gerard Martinez
 9. Adrian Chavez Sr.
 10. Nona Girardi
 11. Robert Villarreal
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NNMCAB Support Staff

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

Guests

Danny Mayfield, Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (RCLC)
Patti Jones, LANS
Danny Katzman, LANS
Dave McInroy, LANS

I. Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Environmental Monitoring and Remediation (EMR), and Waste Management (WM) committees was held on May 8, 2013 at the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) office in Pojoaque, New Mexico. Mr. Joey Tiano, Waste Management Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. and presided over the meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda

The Combined Committee (CC) reviewed the agenda for the May 8, 2013 meeting. Mr. Manuel Pacheco made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Mr. Doug Sayre seconded the motion. The agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of Minutes

The CC reviewed the minutes from the March 13, 2013 meeting. Mr. Manuel Pacheco made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Doug Sayre seconded the motion. The CC unanimously approved the March 13, 2013 Minutes.

IV. Website Tutorial

Mr. Tiano asked Mr. William Alexander to begin the tutorial.

Mr. Alexander gave the members a tutorial of the NNMCAB website. The tutorial covered the basic navigation of the website and website map; and the features and resources available for members and public. Mr. Alexander asked that the members provide feedback on any changes or additional features that they would like to see on the website.

V. Old Business

Mr. Tiano opened the floor for discussion on terminology use concerning use of the word "contaminant."

Mr. Stephen Schmelling noted that Mr. Robert Villarreal had asked that this be discussed.

Mr. Tiano noted that Mr. Villarreal was not in today's meeting.

Mr. Lee Bishop stated that to his knowledge a contaminant was a material in an unwanted location. He noted that he had not noticed any misuse of the term, and was unsure what Mr. Villarreal's concern was.

Mr. Tiano tabled the discussion on terminology usage until Mr. Villarreal could be consulted, leaving it as an agenda item for the June 12th CC meeting.

Mr. Tiano reopened the floor for discussion on terminology usage at 3:57 p.m. as Mr. Villarreal had arrived during the meeting.

Mr. Villarreal stated that in order for something to be a contaminant it has to be inadvertently spilled into a material, noting that this makes the material less desirable and possibly toxic. If something is purposely added to a matter then it becomes a tracer not a contaminant. He cautioned that going forward care should be taken when using the term contaminant.

Mr. Tiano thanked Mr. Villarreal for his clarification.

VI. New Business

a. Consideration and Action on Recommendation 2013-03 FY'15 Budget Request

Mr. Tiano asked Mr. Carlos Valdez to go over the recommendation for the members.

Mr. Valdez stated that recommendation 2013-03 was intended to address which activities the NNMCAB would like DOE to consider as part of the FY'15 budget planning.

Mr. Bishop noted that all the EM waste would be off the hill before FY'15, with only the newly generated NNSA waste left to be removed; noting that the newly generated waste should be removed by December 2014.

Mr. Alex Puglisi asked why there was such a rush on making this recommendation at this time.

Mr. Bishop responded that in order to keep within the congressional budget cycle, President Obama had compressed the schedule. The result is that the NNMCAB needs to submit its FY'15 budget recommendation by mid-May, to allow DOE time to consider the recommendation before submitting its counter budget to the office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Mr. Stephen Schmelling noted that he felt the recommendation addressed the right priorities; however, he was concerned with the word (focus) noting that he would like to have the recommendation say something stronger.

Dr. Nona Girardi asked if this recommendation was confirming that the citizens want funding for what DOE is already planning to do, or is it urging DOE toward different action. Second, please clarify what item number five is attempting to address.

Mr. Bishop responded that the current schedule has the 33 Shafts being pulled up in FY'18, if the decision for removal was approved. He noted that item number five was addressing the issue of the NEPA process and its impact on the final decision for the 33 Shafts.

Dr. Girardi asked if item five could be restated using more specific wording.

Mr. Bishop noted that it was up to the members to wordsmith the recommendation. He also noted that he would like to remind the CAB that Material Disposal Area (MDA) G is a disposal site and currently there were no plans to remove the low level waste, only the transuranic waste.

Mr. Puglisi asked if there was a plan for final closure of MDA G and if it had been approved by the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED).

Mr. Bishop stated that there was a plan on NMEDs desk; however, NMED had not approved the plan. He noted that DOE/LANS were; however, working toward that plan.

Mr. Pacheco stated that he felt the purpose of the recommendation was to push up the time table for MDA G to a more realistic time frame.

Mr. Valdez stated that to him the word (focus) was intended to address that the NNMCAB felt these were the top five issues for FY'15.

Mr. Bishop suggested using the word (prioritize) in place of the word focus. Mr. Bishop also briefly explained how the Integrated Priority List (IPL) and base lining works.

Mr. Puglisi asked about the status of the chromium plume.

Mr. Danny Katzman responded that LANL was in the process of addressing how to deal with the chromium plume.

Mr. Valdez noted that the word (focus on) would be changed to prioritize.

Mr. Pacheco moved to approve recommendation 2013-03 as amended; Mr. Gerard Martinez seconded the motion. Recommendation 2013-03 was approved as amended.

b. Appointment of Nominating Committee for FY'14 Chair and Vice-Chair Election

Mr. Tiano noted that a nominating committee needs to be appointed for the upcoming FY'14 election.

Ms. Santistevan noted that the committee would need to pole the members on who would like to run for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair, and issue a report at the next full board meeting.

Mr. Schmelling volunteered to be on the nominating committee.

Ms. Angel Quintana volunteered to be on the nominating committee.

c. Election of Acting Waste Management Committee Vice-Chair

Mr. Tiano noted that during the executive committee meeting Mr. Pacheco had volunteered to take on position of Vice-Chair for the WMC. Mr. Tiano asked if any other members were interested in the position.

Mr. Martinez moved to accept the nomination of Mr. Pacheco as the new Vice-Chair for the WMC; Mr. Sayre seconded the motion. The CC unanimously approved Mr. Pacheco as the new Vice-Chair for the WMC, through the end of the fiscal year.

VII. Update from Executive Committee

Mr. Tiano asked Mr. Valdez to give a report on the executive committee.

Mr. Valdez noted that Draft Recommendations 2013-04, 2013-05, and 2013-06 were included in the CC meeting packet; however, clarification was needed from the author before presenting them to the board. He stated that the recommendations would hopefully be ready for action at the May 22, 2013 board meeting.

VIII. Update from DDFO

Mr. Bishop noted that in the May 7, 2013 paper it was noted that congress had approved the reprogramming of 19 million dollars.

Ms. Jones noted that Governor Martinez, had also been on site May 8, 2013 for a tour of MDA G. She also noted that the Governor had addressed the reprogramming issue at a news conference that would be airing this evening.

Mr. Bishop stated that a meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Mercury Storage was being held in Albuquerque on May 9, 2013 at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

Ms. Christina Houston noted that the meeting was from 5 to 9 p.m.

Mr. Bishop noted that he had confirmed with Cate Alexander that the meeting was within the scope of the NNMCAB. He suggested that the NNMCAB write a recommendation in the form of a public comment. He noted that the public comment would have a formal response in the comment resolution document.

IX. Presentation on Groundwater Monitoring Wells at MDA G

a. Mr. Dave McInroy gave a presentation to the NNMCAB on Monitoring wells at Technical Area 54. 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. Schmelling asked if the monitoring wells were in the regional aquifer.

Mr. McInroy responded that the wells were in the regional aquifer and that most wells had multiple sampling ports.

Mr. Bob Villarreal asked about cross contamination between shallow wells and deep wells.

Mr. Katzman responded that understanding characteristics from each well is important; he noted that all of the monitoring wells are non-contaminated.

Mr. Villarreal asked how many failed wells LANL had.

Mr. McInroy noted that there is a great deal of input and research that goes into sighting a well, and currently there are no failed well sites at LANL.

Mr. Puglisi asked how the wells were drilled.

Mr. Katzman noted that since 2005 wells have been drilled using air. He noted that some of the older wells were drilled with muds.

Mr. Schmelling asked about the determination of ground water flow.

Mr. Hai Shen noted that elevation data and carbon 14 dating is used in the determination of groundwater flow.

Ms. Patti Jones asked how deep the wells are.

Mr. Katzman noted that the well depth ranges from 300 to 500 feet below the mesa top.

Mr. Adrian Chavez asked what the "i" in R55i represented.

Mr. Katzman responded that there are three different types of groundwater, Alluvial, Intermediate, and Regional.

Mr. Danny Mayfield asked if there were fault lines in the TA-55 area.

Mr. Katzman responded that to his knowledge TA-55 is not near any of the major fault lines.

Mr. Martinez asked what a vapor extraction unit is.

Mr. McInroy responded that vapor extraction systems work by drawing a vacuum, through charcoal filters which removes the contaminants from the vapor.

Mr. Pacheco asked if the reason for the vapor plume wobble was the geography.

Mr. Katzman responded that the geography was responsible for the wobble. He noted that the geography of the mesa is comprised of extremely porous rocks.

Mr. Villarreal asked if LANS could tell the difference between the east and west sides of the river.

Mr. Katzman responded that the wells on the east and west are day and night from each other. Each side has a very different geochemistry and water age.

X. Public Comment Period

Mr. Tiano opened the floor for public comment at 3:45 p.m. With no members of the public wishing to comment, the public comment period was closed.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Bishop noted that the Members would be touring the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the Waste Control Solutions Site on November 4 -6, 2013.

Mr. Tiano noted that the next CC meeting would be on June 12, 2013.

With no additional comments Mr. Tiano adjourned the meeting at 4:20p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Alexander
Technical Programs and Outreach