



# NNMCAB Newsletter

Volume II, Issue IV

Fall 2014

## Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Newsletter

### Inside this issue:

Meet New NNMCAB Members	2
New Officers for Fiscal Year 2015	3
Chairs Corner	5
Rocky Flats Tour	6
Rad Waste Summit	7
Farewell to Robert Villarreal	7

### Special points of interest:

- \* New Tech for the NNMCAB Meetings page 3
- \* Recruiting for 2015 Page 4
- \* Check Out the NNMCABs Social Media Applications Back Cover
- \* NNMCAB WIPP Recommendations Back Cover

## National Chairs Meeting-Idaho Falls, Idaho

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Chair Mr. Carlos Valdez, Vice-Chair Mr. Doug Sayre and Board Member Ms. Allison Majure, with NNMCAB staff attended the Fall 2014 Chairs meeting in Idaho Falls this past September. The members had the opportunity to tour the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) site, which covers 890 square miles in southeastern Idaho. The site tour took the members to the Experimental Breeder Reactor 1 (EBR-I) a national historic landmark noted as the worlds first

nuclear power plant. At the EBR-I Museum the members were also able to see two aircraft nuclear propulsion prototype engines.



Idaho Chairs Meeting September 2014.

NNMCAB members attended the meetings on the subsequent days. During

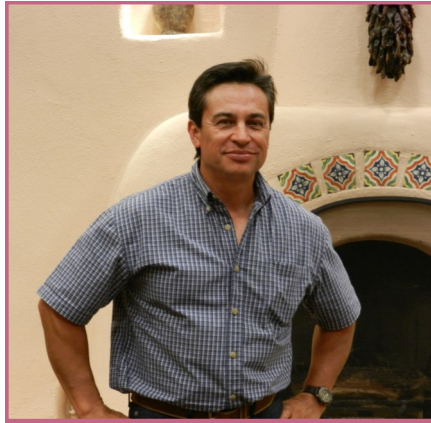
the meeting one of the topics of great concern was the status and future of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) located in southern New Mexico, and the current problem with the shipping of Transuranic waste. In an effort to address the issue, NNMCAB Members Sayre and Majure helped draft a national recommendation on WIPP. The recommendation that was approved during the meeting, recommended DOE look at the possibility of temporary above ground storage at the WIPP site. The recommendation was forwarded to the boards across the complex for their approval.

## 2014/2015 NNMCAB Meeting Schedule

Meeting Date	Venue	City
November 19, 2014	Ohkay Conference Center	Española
January 28, 2015	Cities of Gold	Pojoaque
March 25, 2015	La Fonda on the Plaza	Santa Fe
May 20, 2015	Sandia Conference Center	Albuquerque
July 29, 2015	Sagebrush Conference Center	Taos
September 1-3, 2015	La Fonda on the Plaza (National Chairs Meeting)	Santa Fe
September 30, 2015	El Rancho Conference Center	San Ildefonso

## Meet the New NNM CAB Member & Say Hi to Our New Student Members.

Mr. Valerio retired from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in October of 2011. While working at the NMED, Mr. Valerio worked in the Environmental Health Division as an Environmental Scientist/Specialist, where he administered NMED's objectives for programs under the division's jurisdiction. His previous jobs were for the Town of



Mr. Valerio at the NNM CAB's September 24, 2014 Board Meeting at the Sagebrush in Taos.

Mexico Highlands University with a Bachelor's of Science in

## New Member Michael Valerio

Taos as their Chief Building Official and Code Enforcement Officer. He also holds a certification from the New Mexico Flood Plain Management Association as a flood plain manager. Mr. Valerio graduated from New

Environmental Health and a minor in Biology. He is a native of the Taos area and currently serves as the President of the Dual Language Parents Committee for Enos Garcia Elementary. Mr. Valerio was appointed to the board by site appointment in September 2014.

### Be Informed.

### Get Involved.

Because you love New Mexico!

Interested in becoming a member or joining a committee?  
Contact NNM CAB Executive Director Menice Santistevan @ (505)995-0393 or e-mail [menice.santistevan@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:menice.santistevan@nnsa.doe.gov)

## New Student Members Alicia Bowyer & Alyssa Schreiber

Ms. Alicia Bowyer at the NNM CABs July Meeting at La Fonda on the Plaza



Alicia Bowyer is a summer intern for the Lab and will be returning to school for the fall semester. She attended the July and September board meetings and will be attending future meetings as her schedule allows. Alyssa Schreiber

will be working as a graduate student at the lab over the next year. She will be attending the board and committee meetings over the next year.

Both of the students have expressed an interest in the clean-up efforts at the Los Alamos Site. They have also expressed



Ms. Alyssa Schreiber at the NNM CABs July Meeting at La Fonda on the Plaza

that the opportunity to serve on the NNM CAB has already broadened their knowledge of the Los Alamos National Laboratory site, and they look forward to learning more over the coming year about legacy remediation issues at the local site and across the complex.

In July the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board welcomed two new student members to the table. The new student members are interns at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and work for the Associate Directorate for Environmental Programs.

# NNMCAB Elected Officers for Fiscal Year 2015



Ms. Allison Majure and Mr. Douglas Sayre at the NNMCAB September meeting at the Sagebrush

of the NNMCAB for Fiscal Year 2015. Mr. Sayre has been a NNMCAB member since September of 2011. Ms. Allison Majure who has been on the NNMCAB since March of 2013, and is a member of the Environmental Monitoring and Remediation subcommittee was elected to serve as the Vice-

At the July 30, 2014 bi-monthly board meeting. The Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) held elections for Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Doug Sayre who served as NNMCAB Vice-Chair for Fiscal year 2014 was elected as Chair

Chair for Fiscal Year 2015. The newly elected officers thanked the outgoing Chair Carlos Valdez for his two years of service to the NNMCAB and his continued service over the next year.

## (Tech Talk) New Face for the Webpage & Skype for Remote Presenters

Due to the remote locations and limited access to internet at the NNMCAB conference venues, the NNMCAB recently invested in a mobile broadband hotspot for use at meetings.

Changes to the NNMCAB webpage are still planned and will be implemented in the coming months. The changes include an upgrade to HTML5 to increase compatibility with the new web



browsers, changes to the design and layout to give the site a fresh feel, drop-downs, ribbon menus, and non static web pages. A new mobile format of the site may also be in the works for users on the go.

## Current NNMCAB Members

- Doug Sayre, NNMCAB Chair**  
*Santa Fe*
- Allison Majure, NNMCAB Vice-Chair**  
*Los Alamos*
- Stephen Schmelling, EM&R Committee Chair**  
*Santa Fe*
- Ashley Sanderson, EM&R Committee Vice-Chair**  
*Santa Fe*
- Manuel Pacheco, WM Committee Chair**  
*Ranchos de Taos*
- Angel Quintana, WM Committee Vice-Chair**  
*Pueblo of Pojoaque*
- Alicia Bowyer, Student Member**  
*Los Alamos*
- Mary Friday, EM&R Committee**  
*Taos*
- Nona Girardi, EM&R Committee**  
*Los Alamos*
- Bonnie Lucas, EM&R Committee**  
*Santa Fe*
- Gerard Martinez, WM Committee**  
*Santa Fe*
- Tessa Jo Mascarenas**  
*Española*
- Daniel Mayfield, WM & EM&R Committees**  
*Nambe*
- Alex Puglisi, WM & EM&R Committees**  
*Santa Fe*
- Deidre Roybal, Student Member**  
*Española*
- Alyssa Schreiber, Student Member**  
*Los Alamos*
- Joseph Tiano, WM Committee**  
*Santa Fe*
- Irene Tse-Pe, WM Committee**  
*Pueblo de San Ildefonso*
- Carlos Valdez, EM&R Committee**  
*Albuquerque*
- Michael Valerio**  
*Taos*
- Mona Varela**  
*Albuquerque*
- Joseph Viarrial, EM&R Committee**  
*Pueblo of Pojoaque*
- Robert Villarreal, WM Committee**  
*Los Alamos*

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Get Involved.

Because you love New Mexico!

## The NNMCAB is Currently Recruiting New Members for Appointment in April 2015



Chairman Valdez (right), received a certificate of appreciation for his two years of service as the NNMCABs Chair, at the September 24, 2014 Meeting from Lee Bishop DDFO (left)

### What is the Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board (NNMCAB)?

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Boards were developed to involve stakeholders more directly in the Department of Energy (DOE) clean-up process. The NNMCAB provides DOE with advice and recommendations concerning: environmental remediation, waste management, and monitoring and surveillance of legacy waste at LANL.

- \* Representing and communicating the views of their communities in board discussions.
- \* Keeping the public informed on key issues, upcoming decisions, board recommendations, and public hearings.
- \* Attending the NNMCABs bi-monthly meetings and serving on one of the boards standing committees. Board meetings occur Bi-monthly on Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Committee meetings occur on the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 2:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Who Serves on the NNMCAB?

Membership reflects a broad range of cultures, demographics, and views from citizens in the affected communities and regions. Members include stakeholders from local governments, Tribal Nations, environmental and civic groups, universities, labor organizations, and others. Liaisons to the NNMCAB come from LANL, DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the New Mexico Environment Department.

### How Can You Get Involved?

Board meetings serve as a two-way exchange between members of the public and the NNMCAB, DOE, and Liaisons. All NNMCAB board meetings have a public comment period through which members of the public can voice their concerns, and submit written comments.

### Interested in Becoming a Board or Committee Member?

Please call Menice B. Santistevan, Executive Director at (505)995-0393 or e-mail [menice.santistevan@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:menice.santistevan@nnsa.doe.gov). Feel free to stop by our office at 94 Cities of Gold Rd., Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506 or visit the website at [www.nnmcab.energy.gov](http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov) for additional information.

### Board Member Responsibilities

- \* Submitting advice and recommendations to DOE on integral Environmental Management Issues.



Christina Houston, and NNMCAB Staff toured the EBR-I facility, as part of the Idaho site tour during the Fall 2014 National Chairs Meeting.



Meeting at La Fonda July 30, 2014.



Members Tour the WCRF facility at LANL Oct. 8, 2014.



NNMCAB Booth at 2014 Earth Day Festival, Los Alamos

## Final Words from Outgoing Chair Carlos Valdez

In 2010, I decided to apply for a vacant position on the NNM CAB. I was surprised that even though I had no knowledge or experience with Environmental Management (EM), I was still appointed to the position. It took a full year to gain the knowledge and experience I felt I needed to contribute to the organization. After my first year, I ran for Vice-Chair, and was successful. That's when the fun really began! I was able to attend high-level meetings, Leadership Breakfasts, and got to meet key figures in the EM world. I learned a great deal from my predecessor, Ralph Phelps, whom I am most thankful to. In my third year on the board, I ran for Chair, and was elected. I've held that

position for the past 2 years. I've seen this board come a long way in the past 3 years, and could not be prouder of this group of people. In my opinion, we are the strongest Site Specific Advisory Board in the DOE complex, and I foresee great things coming from the NNM CAB in the future.

On September 30, 2014, my tenure as Chairman of the NNM CAB came to an end, at the Sagebrush Inn in beautiful Taos, New Mexico. The time shared with my fellow board members will always be special, and I feel blessed to be a part of the NNM CAB. I leave the

Chairmanship in the very trusted and respected hands of Doug Sayre, whom I am certain, will do an outstanding job. I'd like to thank Menice Santistevan and her wonderful staff for making my time as Chair so easy and enjoyable. I could not have done it without them! I am hopeful that Doug will enjoy being Chair as much as I did.



NNM CAB Chairman Valdez, (left) at Idaho Site Chairs Meeting, Sept. 2014. Mr. Valdez received a plaque from EM Acting Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney (right), in recognition of his two years of service as the NNM CAB Chair.

by Carlos Valdez



by Doug Sayre

Being involved with the NNM CAB for the past two years has certainly been enlightening as well as giving me insight, worthwhile information, knowledge and learning as to many of the concerns and needs regarding the legacy waste from LANL's operations from the last 70 some years. Being a lifelong resident of Santa Fe and frequently going to the Hill for various activities over the years, a person gets a very different and often unknowledgeable view of the operations of LANL and DOE. Being on the NNM CAB and having very competent fellow members, Board Staff, DOE DDFOs, EPA, LANL, NMED liaisons, all of whom are very willing and accommodating in providing important pertinent information help make the NNM CAB more educated and

## NNM CAB Chair's Corner

knowledgeable about the legacy waste problems. This collaboration definitely makes for a more learned and informed Board officers and members who are then able to more adequately and reliably consider, advise and recommend on needed items, issues, or documents of legacy waste concern.

I recommend for the upcoming year the NNM CAB consider and/or continue the following activities: 1) Work with DOE and LANL staff to re-establish the Campaign Approach consideration so that the Board can help with prioritization and public involvement with the process. 2) Increase Board membership by involving additional representative community members, especially women, and possibly Pueblo Tribal members from all area pueblos. 3) Work more closely with the Buckman Direct Diversion Board and staff to insure when runoff from Bayo, Pueblo, DP, and Los Alamos Canyons occurs, that the BDD staff are adequately notified so that the diversion structure

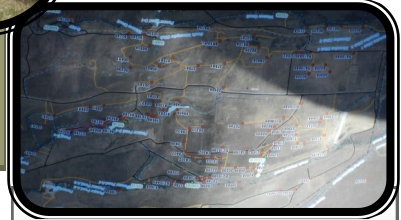
can be adjusted or turned off to let unwanted Rio Grande flow by-pass the diversion structure. If there are some other matters or concerns related to the diversion that the BDD Board would like to be addressed, the NNM CAB consider taking them under advisement for presentation to DOE/LANL. 4) Request that LANL and DOE continue to provide updated reports concerning the monitoring and status of the MDA's A, B, and T at Technical Area 21 and MDA G at Technical Area 54 on the disposition of the waste in the "Generals Tanks," the Pits, the Trenches, and the Shafts associated with these disposal areas. 5) Request that LANL provide a detailed report relating to the Groundwater Monitoring completed in 2012-13 and any significant findings that might be considered potential contamination areas. Also advise if additional monitoring wells are planned and if additional sample frequency of any areas are planned.

# Members Visit Rocky Flats Site



Water retention structures on the site. The structures are some of the measures used to slow drainage off the site and prevent erosion and flooding.

Above members arrive at the site and stop at the former landfill area.



Above map of the site with well locations and site boundaries denoted: Below: NNMCAB members at the site of the primary landfill.

*NNMCAB members were able to tour the Rocky Flats site to see first hand how a Completed Cap and Cover looks.*



Below Left to Right: Mona Varela, Danny Mayfield, Joey Tiano, Bridget Maestas, Angel Quintana, Lee Bishop, Katie Gallegos, Alyssa Schreiber, Karen Armijo, Menice Santistevan.



## 2014 Rad Waste Summit Summerlin, Nevada

This year's Rad Waste Summit was held in Summerlin, Nevada, September 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>. Attending from the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board was Joseph Viarrial and myself. Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> was a travel and registration day. The travel day was extra special for me, due to the fact that I ran into DOE Secretary Ernest Moniz at the Sunport before boarding my flight. Yes, I was able to get a picture with him! Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday were full days of meetings and exhibits.

The first session on Wednesday morning was exciting in that NMED Secretary Ryan Flynn spoke at length about the WIPP events. He was encouraged that although DOE got off to a slow start in responding to the incidents, they have since shown much more attention to the matter and are responding in a positive manner. DOE has implemented several teams,

to include a multi-lab technical assessment team, are sponsoring weekly town hall meetings, and have implemented an acceptable recovery plan. He did mention however, that the pace of the investigation was too slow.

His plan for WIPP includes:

1. Identify the root cause
2. Close panels immediately
3. EM must be given control of Legacy waste clean-up at LANL and throughout the complex
4. Eliminate the silo effect at WIPP and all generator sites
5. HQ should not manage recovery operations from DC, they need "boots on the ground"

Frank Marcinowski also spoke at the session. He assured everyone that DOE is committed to opening WIPP safely, and as quickly as possible.

We also heard perspectives from contractors, a few of the generating sites, and the Nevada Advisory Board as well. There were several other speakers at the event; however, WIPP was undoubtedly the topic of conversation at the Summit.

Overall, this was one of the best conferences I've attended. It was informative, very interesting, well-attended, and I would highly recommend future attendance by CAB members. I can be available to speak to members more about the Summit off-line, if desired.



by Carlos Valdez

## Say Farewell to Outgoing Member Villarreal

Mr. Bob Villarreal retired from the Department of Energy in 2008 after 45 years of service as a research chemist and nuclear reactor operator. He has worked on over 5 different reactors from the Borax V to the Zero Power Plutonium Reactor. During his 45 year career Mr. Villarreal was a project and program lead for the LANL Chemical and Metallurgical group and at one point he was appointed as the Argonne West Analytical Laboratory Manager.

Mr. Villarreal was appointed to the NNM CAB November 7, 2008 to fill a vacated seat. On November 15, 2014 he will complete his third term. Mr. Villarreal has an extensive list of over a hundred technical reports and publi-

cations he authored including his most recent in 2008, "Technical Guide



to the Observation and Recognition of an Actinide Nuclear Weapons Material." Mr. Villarreal has a Masters Degree in Chemistry from the University of Idaho, and has brought a wealth of

knowledge and experience to the NNM CAB. During his time on the NNM CAB, Mr. Villarreal has served on the Environmental Monitoring & Remediation sub-committee. He has become an advocate for the removal of the 33 Shafts at Los Alamos National Laboratories Technical Area 54. A project that he had previously worked on during his time at the Lab.

The NNM CAB members and staff wish Mr. Villarreal the best in all of his future endeavors, and hope to see him at future meetings as a member of the public.

THANK YOU



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## NNMCAB Current Project

The NNMCAB is currently working on drafting recommendations on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Site. At the July 30, 2014 NNMCAB meeting the Board approved Draft Recommendation 2014-02 "Institution of Measures to Help Ensure WIPP and LANL Transuranic Disposal Operations Remain Continually Operational." The NNMCAB sub-committees are also working to draft additional recommendations on WIPP and environmental clean-up issues.

To view the NNMCAB's 2014 recommendations and previous years recommendations visit "[Recommendations Tab](#)" on our homepage.

## NNMCAB Web & Social Media

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The Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board is a federally appointed panel of citizens that provides public involvement opportunities and recommendations to the U.S. Department of Energy concerning: environmental monitoring, waste management, remediation, and long-term stewardship at and around Los Alamos National Laboratory.

To Find out More about the NNMCAB, visit our **Social Media** Sites or our Webpage.

Visit the NNMCAB website [Newsletter Section](#) to add yourself to the electronic distribution list .