

**Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board**



**Joint Committee Meeting**

**August 18, 2021**

**1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**WebEx**

**Minutes**

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**Meeting Attendees (Via WebEx)**

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**Department of Energy**

1. Michael Mikolanis, Manager, Environmental Management Los Alamos
  2. Lee Bishop, DDFO, Environmental Management Los Alamos
  3. John Evans, Environmental Management Los Alamos
  4. Jesse Kahler, Environmental Management Los Alamos
  5. Lee Ocker, Environmental Management Los Alamos
  6. Hai Shen, Environmental Management Los Alamos
  7. Miquela Vargas, Environmental Management Los Alamos
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**NNMCAB Members**

1. Bob Hull, Risk Committee Chair
  2. Mark Hayden, Consent Order Committee Chair
  3. Cherylin Atcitty
  4. Elena Fernandez
  5. Ubaldo Gallegos
  6. Sterling Grogan
  7. Angelica Gurulé
  8. Roger Life
  9. Joshua Madalena
  10. Beverly Martin
  11. David Neal
  12. Patricio Pacheco
  13. Irene Tse-Pe
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**NNMCAB Staff**

1. Menice Santistevan, Executive Director
  2. Bridget Maestas, Executive Assistant
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**Guests**

1. Geoff Asmus, Jacobs
2. Eric Castillo, Field Representative for Senator Martin Heinrich's Office
3. Angela Edwards, LANL
4. Erich Evered, N3B
5. Stephanie Gallagher, EM-LA
6. Rick Greiner, NMED
7. Fritz Hahn, Town of Taos Council Member

- 1 8. Kristen Henderson, N3B
- 2 9. Sara Holcomb, NMED
- 3 10. Jeff Holland, N3B
- 4 11. Catherine Juarez, LANL
- 5 12. Kate Keenan, N3B
- 6 13. Scott Kovac, Nuclear Watch New Mexico
- 7 14. Kim Lebak, N3B
- 8 15. Nadia Martin, Industrial Economics, Incorporated
- 9 16. Gail Mattson, N3B
- 10 17. Thomas McCrory, EM-LA
- 11 18. Joe Ritchey, EM-LA
- 12 19. Michelle Saiz, EM-LA
- 13 20. Melanie Snyder, Public
- 14 21. John Stang, Reporter, RadWaste Monitor and Weapons Complex Monitor
- 15 22. Maggie Hart Stebbins, Natural Resources Trustee
- 16 23. John Tauxe, Public
- 17 24. Mark Turnbough, Environmental Consultant
- 18 25. Neil Weber, Pueblo de San Ildefonso
- 19 26. Elicia Williams, EM-LA

20 \* The written minutes are intended as a synopsis of the meeting

**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) Joint Consent Order and Risk Management and Evaluation Committee was held on August 18, 2021 via WebEx.

Mr. Mark Hayden, Consent Order Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

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**II. Introductions**

Mr. Hayden welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Santistevan asked for introductions from the members and guests on the WebEx.

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**III. Approval of Agenda**

The board reviewed the agenda for the August 18, 2021 meeting. Mr. Hayden opened the floor to entertain a motion.

Ms. Angelica Gurulé made a motion to approve the agenda; Ms. Irene Tse-Pe seconded the motion. The motion to approve the agenda passed.

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**IV. Approval of Minutes**

The board reviewed the minutes for the June 23, 2021 meeting. Mr. Hayden opened the floor to entertain a motion.

Mr. Bob Hull made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Patricio Pacheco seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes as presented passed.

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**V. Introduction of Michael Mikolanis, EM-LA Site Manager**

Mr. Michael Mikolanis gave a brief description of his background. Prior to his appointment as Manager of the Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office, Mr. Mikolanis served as Assistant Manager for Nuclear Material Stabilization at the Savannah River Site for four years. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering from Purdue University and a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Mr. Mikolanis is a professional engineer, licensed in the state of Maryland.

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**VI. Update from Lee Bishop, DDFO**

Mr. Lee Bishop welcomed and introduced the three new NNMCAB Members, Sterling Grogan, Beverly Martin, and Miguel Vigil.

**Upcoming Events:**

- September Board Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting at the Ohkay Owingeh Conference Center. There would be limited in-person capacity and members that would like to attend in person should contact Ms. Santistevan.
- Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) National Chairs Meeting would be held virtually the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bishop noted that it would be a great opportunity for the NNMCAB members to watch a National EM SSAB Chairs meeting.

Anticipated Questions:

- They are working on getting the NNMCAB webpage updated, it is taking a little time.
- Ongoing Litigation – it is the departments policy not to comment on ongoing litigation with the NMED lawsuit. DOE previously provided the links to the complaint and the response to the complaint. They are moving to settle without having to go to court. DOE is working with NMED to begin the negotiations on Appendix B milestones for Fiscal Year 2022.

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**VII. Old Business**

Mr. Hayden stated that the NNMCAB has a recommendation still in draft form that would need to be finalized and voted on at the next meeting. Mr. Hayden gave an overview of the draft recommendation.

Mr. Bishop stated that the last baseline was updated in 2014 or 2015. He noted that the baseline is being update at this time and would cover 90% or more of the points on the recommendation. Mr. Bishop stated that the website for comments to Appendix B was still open and available for everyone to make comments. He noted that he would have the NNMCAB staff re-send the link to that website.

Mr. Hull stated that he would like to clarify for the new members that he is the Chair of the NNMCAB, and he is also the Chair of the Risk Evaluation and Management Committee and Mr. Hayden is the Chair of the Consent Order Committee. He noted that for the past year the committees have been meeting together whereas before they had met separately.

Mr. Hayden asked if there was an onboarding procedure or introduction for new members to understand the respective committees and to have more in depth information.

Ms. Santistevan stated that the staff is planning an orientation for new members and for the older new members since the staff has been unable to get together with anyone. She noted that the staff would send out an electronic toolkit to the new members to they can become familiar with the documents concerning the Board, the mission and the committee work plans. Ms. Santistevan stated that she is planning an orientation with Mr. Bishop and N3B to go over environmental cleanup either hybrid or virtually in the coming month or so.

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**VIII. New Business**

**a. Report from Nominating Committee, Elena and Cherylin**

Ms. Cherylin Atcitty stated that the nominating committee called members and asked for nominations and many were not able to accept the nomination. She noted that she had agreed to run for Chair and Ms. Fernandez agreed to run for Vice-Chair. Mr. Patricio Pacheco also agreed to run for Vice-Chair. Ms. Atcitty stated that they would continue to accept nominations through September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Santistevan clarified that voting would take place at the September Board Meeting and nominations would be accepted until then. She noted that the nominees so far were as follows: Chair – Cherylin Atcitty; Vice-Chair – Elena Fernandez and Patricio Pacheco.

**b. Other Items**

Mr. Neal stated that he would like an updated presentation from the New Mexico Cancer Registry with the key counties that were left out of the previous presentation. He believes Sandoval and San Miguel Counties were a few that were left out.

Ms. Fernandez stated that she would like to request a presentation on seismic activity in the area and requested a report on fire danger and fire hazards around Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Mr. Bishop stated that he would make contact and see who can present the information to the NNMCAB. He noted that the gentleman that presented before has since retired. Mr. Bishop stated that

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**IX. Presentation**

**a. Overview of Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) and Restoration**

Ms. Miquela Vargas, EM-LA, gave a presentation on "Overview of Natural Resource Damage Assessment". An electronic copy of the presentation may be obtained from the NNMCAB Staff ([menice.santistevan@em.doe.gov](mailto:menice.santistevan@em.doe.gov) or [bridget.maestas@em.doe.gov](mailto:bridget.maestas@em.doe.gov) or by calling (505) 989-1662.

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**I. Public Comment**

Mr. Hayden opened the floor for public comment at 2:55 p.m.

Mr. Scott Kovac, Nuclear Watch New Mexico, stated that he wanted to take a minute and look at an article titled, "Migration of Plutonium in Ground Water at the Nevada Test Site." He read the following from the article.

*"Mobile colloids—suspended particles in the submicrometre size range—are known to occur naturally in ground water and have the potential to enhance transport of non-soluble contaminants through sorption. The possible implications of this transport mechanism are of particular concern in the context of radionuclide transport. Significant quantities of the element plutonium have been introduced into the environment as a result of nuclear weapons testing and production, and nuclear power-plant accidents."*

Mr. Kovac stated that it mentions that Pu-239 and Pu-240 isotopes migrated 1.3 Kilometers from the site, so technically Plutonium is not soluble but it appears that it can catch a ride with colloidal groundwater and can migrate even though it is not soluble.

Mr. Kovac stated that regarding the Natural Resource Damage Assessment discussion, there is an article on the NRDA website titled, "Treatment of Non-Detects in the Los Alamos National Laboratory Natural Resource Damage Assessment," dated June 2017. He read the following paragraphs from the article.

*"All NRDA's require measuring the concentrations of one or more hazardous substances in environmental media and/or biota. NRDA decisions often rely on computations involving environmental concentration data that contain "non-detect" and/or "estimated" results. To help ensure the reliability of NRDA*

1 *decisions, limitations in these measurements should be clearly understood, and*  
2 *computations should be performed in a manner that is appropriate, given a*  
3 *dataset's particular characteristics."*

4  
5 *"Trustees are faced with several challenges when analyzing datasets that*  
6 *include qualified measurements. First, it is important to understand the*  
7 *difference between DLs and QLs and the specific types of limits that are*  
8 *represented in a given dataset. Terminology can cause confusion: over the years*  
9 *different authorities have used and developed a variety of surrogate terms and*  
10 *associated definitions for values that can be thought of generally as a DL or QL.*  
11 *This proliferation of definitions has contributed to confusion in the field, and*  
12 *trustees must ensure that they correctly understand the types of limits used and*  
13 *reported in their specific datasets. Second, trustees often must perform*  
14 *calculations with datasets that include qualified data, and the statistical*  
15 *literature is not unanimous in its recommendations on how best to do this, even*  
16 *for relatively straightforward calculations such as determining the mean.*

17 *With these challenges in mind, the major components of this report include:*

- 18 *• Reviewing and summarizing available information on detection and*
- 19 *quantitation limits, including those used in the LANL Intellus database;*
- 20 *• Reviewing how trustees have handled NDs in other NRDA's; and*
- 21 *• Recommending approaches for handling NDs in statistical tasks common in*
- 22 *NRDA's."*

23  
24 Mr. Kovac stated that he wanted to point out that non-detects are convenient and a term  
25 people use, and that the term non-detect means different things to different people.

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27 With no other public comment, Mr. Hayden closed public comment at 3:01 p.m.

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29 **X. Presentation**

30 **c. Drilling and Well Installation for the EM Program at LANL**

31 Mr. Thomas McCrory, EM-LA, gave a presentation on "Drilling and Well Installation for  
32 the EM Program at LANL". An electronic copy of the presentation may be obtained from  
33 the NNMCAB Staff ([menice.santistevan@em.doe.gov](mailto:menice.santistevan@em.doe.gov) or [bridget.maestas@em.doe.gov](mailto:bridget.maestas@em.doe.gov)  
34 or by calling (505) 989-1662.

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37 **II. Closing Comments**

38 Ms. Santistevan stated that the next meeting would be a full Board Meeting on September  
39 22, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Ohkay Owingeh Conference Center. She noted that  
40 attendance would be first come first serve and if members would like to attend in person  
41 please let her know. Ms. Santistevan stated that the cut off was at 15 to 20 people.

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43 Mr. Hull stated that it would be nice to have the members that are term limited or leaving  
44 the Board be in attendance in person.

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46 **III. Adjournment**

47 Mr. Bishop adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

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**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Bridget Maestas,  
Executive Assistant**

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**Attachments:**

1. Final Joint Risk Management and Evaluation Committee and Consent Order Committee Meeting Agenda for 08/18/2021
2. Final Minutes for the June 23, 2021 Meeting
3. Biography, Mr. Michael Mikolanic, Manager of the Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office
4. Biography, Ms. Miquela Vargas, Program Support Specialist – Intergovernmental/Tribal Liaison
5. Presentation, Los Alamos National Laboratory Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration by Miquela Vargas, DOE EM-LA
6. Biography, Mr. Thomas McCrory, Senior Geologist
7. Presentation, Drilling and Well Installation for the Environmental Management Program at Los Alamos National Laboratory by Thomas McCrory, EM-LA

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