



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting

May 14, 2025
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
Minutes

Meeting Attendees

Department of Energy

1. Jessica Kunkle, Manager, Environmental Management Los Alamos
2. Ellie Gilbertson, Environmental Management Los Alamos
3. Kelley Snyder, Designated Federal Officer, Office of Environmental Management
4. Cherly Rodriguez, Environmental Management Los Alamos
5. John Evans, Environmental Management Los Alamos
6. Allison Scott Majure, Environmental Management Los Alamos
7. Sean Lehman, Environmental Management Los Alamos
8. Robert Reine, Environmental Management Los Alamos
9. Jeff Silvera, Environmental Management Los Alamos

NNMCAB Members

1. Patricio Pacheco, Chair
2. Manuel L'Esperance, Vice-Chair
3. Eleanor Bravo
4. Danielle Duran
5. Christy Green
6. Sterling Grogan
7. Mark Hayden
8. Abbey Hayward
9. Beverly Martin
10. Stephen McLaughlin
11. Arlina Sanford

NNMCAB Staff/Support

1. Bridget Maestas, Executive Director
2. Yolanda Valdez, Executive Assistant

Guests

1. David Ableson, N3B
2. Wayne Barber, Exchange/Monitor Publications, Inc.
3. Theresa Bonelli, Environmental Management Los Alamos
4. Brian Clayman, N3B
5. Erich Evered, N3B
6. Sasha F., Public

7. Stephanie Gallagher, Environmental Management Los Alamos
8. John Gonsky, Tetra Tech
9. Victoria Helle, Industrial Economics, Incorporated (IEc)
10. Kristin Henderson, N3B
11. Deborah Kerrigan, N3B
12. Scott Kovac, Nuclear Watch New Mexico
13. Caitlin Martinez, New Mexico Environment Department
14. Renee Martinez, Environmental Management Los Alamos
15. Beau Masse, New Mexico Environment Department
16. Matt Miller, United States Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez Office
17. Rebecca Ortiz, Environmental Management Los Alamos
18. Aubrey Pierce, Environmental Management Los Alamos
19. Lucia Ross, N3B
20. Kelsey Shank, theEDGE
21. Clark Short, INTERA
22. Tanya Trujillo, Environmental Management Los Alamos
23. Sarah Voorhees, Environmental Management Los Alamos
24. Elicia Williams, Environmental Management Los Alamos

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) was held on May 14, 2025, in a virtual format. The meeting of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) was called to order at 1:02 p.m. Ms. Kelley Snyder presided over the meeting.

Mr. Patricio Pacheco presided over the meeting.

The meeting of the NNMCAB was posted in the *Federal Register* in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

II. Establishment of a Quorum (Roll Call)

Mr. Pacheco conducted a roll call of board members on WebEx. At the call to order, nine NNMCAB members were present or online, and a quorum was established.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Pacheco welcomed everyone to the May Board Meeting. Mr. Pacheco requested that board members online introduce themselves.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The board reviewed the agenda for the May 14, 2025, meeting. Mr. Pacheco stated that an amendment to the agenda is required. Under Old Business, item b. EM SSAB Fall Chairs Meeting should state EM SSAB Spring Chairs Meeting.

Mr. Sterling Grogan made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended. Ms. Eleanor Bravo seconded the motion. The agenda was approved, as amended.

V. Old Business

a. Update from Chair/Vice-Chair

Mr. Pacheco, NNM CAB Chair

Mr. Pacheco stated that due to the departure of Mr. Keith Grindstaff, Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), the NNM CAB has not had the ability to proceed with subcommittee meetings. His hope is that meetings will resume when a new DDFO is named.

Mr. Manuel L'Esperance, NNM CAB Vice-Chair

Mr. L'Esperance stated that he had no update.

b. Report on EM SSAB Spring Chairs' meeting

The Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB) hosted a virtual Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Spring Chairs meeting. Attendees were provided with updates on EM Cleanup sites and shipments from across the country. Attendees participated in a round robin discussion and were able to share accomplishments and goals. The items provided by the NNM CAB were to continue meeting goals, meeting in person and taking tours. Budget information was provided and 3%-10% cuts were noted throughout the cleanup sites. A presentation was given on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

c. Other Items

The tour of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) scheduled for June has been canceled. The tour will be scheduled for a later date. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) tour has been canceled and will be scheduled for a later date. July NNM CAB meeting may be held virtually. The NNM CAB will provide information as soon as it becomes available.

VI. New Business

a. Other Items

Mr. Pacheco stated that the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced an intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for plutonium pit production. NNSA will host virtual public scoping meetings. The first will take place on Tuesday, May 27th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the second will take place on May 28th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

VII. Update from the New Mexico Environment Department

Ms. Caitlin Martinez introduced herself and stated that she is the Acting LANL Group Manager for Corrective Actions.

Consent Order – Ms. Martinez stated that New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and DOE finalized the Settlement Agreement and the Modified Consent Order in 2024. A portion of the Consent Order requires that DOE and NMED work together to align Appendices A, B and C with the requirements of the Modified Consent Order. NMED and

DOE have begun negotiations on matching formatting for Appendix B and modifying campaign descriptions and completion dates for Appendix C. Proposed revisions are due by July 31, 2025. In the last quarter, NMED reviewed and issued decisions on 52 Certificate of Completion (COC) requests under the Settlement Agreement

Groundwater – SIMR-3 is the next proposed groundwater monitoring well for completion. The goal of the well is to evaluate potential contamination on the Pueblo de San Ildefonso land, south of the injection locations. Preconstruction work is taking place in anticipation of drilling the monitoring well.

Chromium Interim Measures - NMED and DOE participated in an Independent Technical Review (ITR) for the Hexavalent Chromium Project. NMED and DOE are now in negotiations on implementing a path forward. Discussions have included recommendations for the required revisions of the Interim Measures (IM) and Characterization Work Plan. Overall, the ITR results supported the technical basis for NMED's regulatory requirements and discussed how the adaptive management strategy can be utilized to assist in ensuring effective communication, dual-party collaboration and decision making. NMED intends to maintain consistency with the regulatory requirements that were in place before the ITR. This will require a higher capacity injection location, monitoring wells that will automatically characterize the plume prior to remedy selection and a modified groundwater model that will be utilized before regulatory decisions are made. A timeline for the incorporation is still undetermined.

DOE has acted on the approval to resume IM partial operations on September 30, 2024. NMED has been monitoring concentrations around the plume during the temporary authorization period, and they will continue to review the data for modifications or adjustments that need to take place.

Corrective Action Document – NMED issued a Statement of Basis for Material Disposal Area (MDA) C and held a 60-day public comment period. Hearing requests were received from Triad, EM-LA, N3B, and Nuclear Watch New Mexico. On January 15th an informal conference was held with the requesters to discuss the scheduling of a public hearing. Parties are now preparing for a public hearing that is tentatively scheduled for early 2026.

Aggregate Areas – NMED is issuing a disapproval and comments on the Phase II Investigation Report for Twomile Canyon. A meeting took place to discuss the comments, and the revised document is expected to be released in the summer of 2025

Permit Related Activities – On March 20, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed amendments to the regulations for open burn and open detonation of waste explosives. The proposed amendment impacted the permit application that DOE had in place. A revised application has been created, and a 60-day extension has been requested for the submission. The application is due July 11, 2025.

WIPP Update – Due to the new permit conditions, WIPP is holding community forums. The last Community Forum took place on April 30, 2025. The next forums are tentatively scheduled for July in Hobbs and October in Artesia.

Shipment Update – From January 1, 2025, through April 31, 2025, there have been 57 total shipments to WIPP: 37 from Idaho National Laboratory; 10 from LANL; 7 from Savannah River Site; 3 from Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

a. Questions

Mr. Pacheco asked how many shipments were delivered to WIPP weekly.

Ms. Martinez stated that she would provide the information to the NNMCAB.

I. Update and Look Ahead from N3B

Mr. Brian Clayman stated that he will be discussing wildfire mitigation, the Corrugated Metal Pipe Project (CMP) and the COCs.

Wildfire mitigation is taking place at Technical Area 54 Area G. Los Alamos County issued stage 1 fire restrictions on May 4, 2025. The restriction calls for extra fire prevention measures to be implemented. A focus has been placed on shipping combustible materials off site, regular storage checks and removing invasive species and dead trees. All precautions are being taken to keep fire risk minimal. Fire mitigation is coordinated with Los Alamos County, Emergency Management Los Alamos, NNSA, Triad and LANL Management Operating Contractor. All requirements put in place by the Emergency Management Division have been implemented.

The CMP retrieval was completed in September of 2024. The size reduction of the 158 CMP's was completed on December 11, 2024. Seven hundred and ninety-two segments are stored in their facility and N3B is currently working with Carlsbad Field Office to get the segments characterized and certified for shipment to WIPP. Approval has been granted to begin shipping the waste streams and five of 792 have been approved for shipment. The first shipment will take place at the end of May.

Characterization activities consist of four sections. The process begins with container management. Central Characterization Project (CCP) performs container inspections and radiography exams on the containers with a High-Energy Real-Time Radiography Unit (HE-RTR). The drums are then taken for Non-Destructive Assay (NDA) examination. Either gamma spectroscopy or neutron spectroscopy is utilized to quantify the radionuclides in the containers. Finally, the containers are put through an enhanced Acceptable Knowledge (AK) process that provides the history of the containers. The containers are then certified for shipment. The shipment of the containers will represent the completion of the first below ground True Waste Retrieval completed by N3B. Completion of the CMP project is estimated to be five years.

N3B had 221 COC requests to NMED when the Consent Order was modified in the fall of 2024. A part of the Consent Order Agreement is a schedule for all the COC requests. NMED is currently meeting that schedule. The target is to complete 50 requests per quarter. The final 71 are due by the end of FY 25. The COC process consists of assigning remedial activities and performing them if necessary. N3B then submits the reports to NMED for approval of the report. EM-LA then requests that NMED issue a COC. A total of 95 COC's were issued: 47 issued in December; 48 issued in March. The next batch will be issued in June. Out of the 95, 78 were issued with no controls and 17 were issued with controls.

The Environmental Management Cleanup Forum will take place in person and virtually on June 12, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Cities of Gold Casino. The focus will be on the comprehensive approach to water quality.

a. Questions

Mr. Pacheco asked if WIPP has a reserved section for the CMP containers.

Mr. Clayman stated the CMP's have priority disposal. WIPP reviews all requests for disposal and selects those that have priority and strategizes the locations of containers.

II. Update from EM Los Alamos Field Office

Ms. Jessica Kunkle thanked NMED and N3B for their presentations. She stated that she would be emphasizing items mentioned by both parties. EM-LA and NMED are working closely on their annual consent order planning in accordance with the Revised Consent Order requirements. This includes beginning negotiations for finalizing the Appendices A, B and C for FY 26. The HE-RTR Unit at TA-54 Area G was recertified by the Carlsbad partners who work in the waste characterization and certification process. The planned maintenance took longer than anticipated and a backlog was created. The containers are currently being processed quickly and effectively.

Partial operations of the IM resumed at the end of September 2024. The IM continues to run 24/7 with four extraction wells and three injection wells with no issues. Monthly sampling data from mid-April has indicated that since the restart in September, the documented chromium concentration at and near the IM well has shown a significant decrease in chromium concentration.

SIMR-3 is the next monitoring well in priority. Preparatory work has taken place and on May 1, 2025, the well pad was successfully completed. The team will have the ability to mobilize later this summer.

EM-LA and NMED are working closely on plans to implement the ITR recommendations. Ms. Kunkle stated that EM-LA experienced no federal terminations due to the mass terminations. Several personnel opted to take the Differed Resignation Program and as a result EM-LA is taking an intentional review of their governmental functions and work responsibilities and has made some alignments within the remaining federal and contractor support personnel. There are currently no work stoppages due to staffing. Congress passed a full year Continuing Resolution for FY 25. At the high level this should be beneficial for EM-LA due to the FY 24 enacted amount that they were beholden to is around 12 million more than requested in FY 25. A final step to acquiring the full year's budget is submitting their site's annual operating plan as part of a full DOE submission to the White House Management and Budget. The FY 26 request is still embargoed. The President's budget request may be released by the end of May 2025.

a. Questions

Mr. Sterling Grogan asked if results from the chromium concentration could be shared with the NNM CAB.

Ms. Kunkle stated that she would get the information to the NNM CAB.

1 Mr. Pacheco asked if there is an estimated time that the chromium concentration will
2 return to the levels they were before the stop in 2023.

3 Ms. Kunkle stated that boundary migration will play a large part in the timing. As NMED
4 and EM-LA begin to work together a more definitive answer on time may be provided.

5 Ms. Martinez stated NMED has a concern that the plume is not being contained to the
6 east and no data points are in place. NMED is determining how much the IM infiltrated
7 that movement. Their goal is to investigate how better IM can be built.

8
9 **III. Presentation on “Waste Types/Shipping Streams”**

10 Ms. Brian Clayman presented on, “Waste Types/Shipping Streams.” An electronic copy of
11 the presentation may be obtained from the NNMCAB staff. (Yolanda.valdez@em.doe.gov or
12 bridget.maestas@em.doe.gov)

13 Mr. Clayman stated that he is the Program Manager for Contact-Handled Transuranic (CH-
14 TRU) Waste. In the presentation he will go over the contract and the types of waste streams
15 that are generated and how they are processed. There are three legs to the N3B contract.
16 They are protecting water quality, cleaning up the land and shipping waste off-site. The
17 waste streams consist of CH-TRU, Low-level Radioactive Waste, Mixed Low-Level Waste and
18 Non-Rad Waste Streams. The streams can be broken up into Hazardous Waste, Industrial
19 Waste, Universal Waste, New Mexico Special Waste. The waste is generated at TA-54 Area G
20 and Environmental Remediation (ER).

21 **a. Questions**

22 Ms. Beverly Martin asked if LANL sent waste to the Nevada Test Site.

23 Mr. Clayman stated that LANL does send waste to Nevada but N3B does not. N3B does
24 not have a certified program to ship to the Nevada Nuclear Storage Site.

25 Ms. Martin asked how much mixed low-level waste is being stored in the LANL site
26 treatment plan.

27 Mr. Clayman stated that the plan is in process.

28 Ms. Daniel Duran asked in what MDA TA-54 falls in.

29 Mr. Clayman stated that TA-54 contains several MDAs such as area G, L and J.

30 Mr. Pacheco asked where the super sack shipments go

31 Mr. Clayman stated that it is dependent on the type of waste the sacks contain.

32
33 **IV. Public Comment Period**

34 Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for public comment at 2:19 p.m.

35 With no public comment, Mr. Pacheco closed public comment at 2:20 p.m.

V. Update from the Executive Director

Ms. Bridget Maestas stated that the next Board Meeting will take place on July 16, 2025. Ms. Maestas will inform the members if the meeting will take place in person or virtual. The meeting location will be at Cities of Gold Hotel if it is held in person.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Kelley Snyder thanked the attendees for their attendance and participation.

With no additional business to discuss, Ms. Snyder adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

Certified By:



07/22/2025

Mr. Patricio Pacheco, Chair

***Minutes prepared by Yolanda Valdez, Executive Assistant, NNMCAB**

Attachments

- 1. Final NNMCAB Meeting Agenda for 5/14/2025**
- 2. Presentation by Brian Clayman, N3B, "Waste Types/Shipping Streams"**

***All NNMCAB meetings are recorded. The written minutes are intended as a synopsis of the meeting.**