



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting

Public Outreach Subcommittee Meeting

November 06, 2024

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

WebEx Meeting

Minutes

Meeting Attendees (Via WebEx)

Department of Energy

1. Keith Grindstaff, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Environmental Management Los Alamos

NNMCAB Members

1. Jose Villegas, Subcommittee Chair
2. Danielle Duran, Subcommittee Vice-Chair
3. Eleanor Bravo
4. Manny L'Esperance
5. Patricio Pacheco

NNMCAB Staff/Support

1. Bridget Maestas, Executive Director
2. Menice Santistevan, Senior Advisor
3. Yolanda Valdez, Executive Assistant

Guests

1. Scott Kovac, Nuclear Watch New Mexico
2. Elena Ferdinánd, NMSU Program Manager EPA R6 EJ TCTAC

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) Public Outreach Subcommittee was held on November 6, 2024, via Webex. Mr. Keith Grindstaff, NNMCAB (Deputy Designated Federal Officer) DDFO, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Jose Villegas welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an introduction. Mr. Villegas then asked the members to introduce themselves.

III. Approval of Agenda

The board reviewed the agenda for the November 6, 2024, meeting. Mr. Villegas asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Mr. Patricio Pacheco made a motion to approve the agenda; Mr. Manny L'Esperance seconded the motion. The agenda was approved, as presented.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes for the October 02, 2024, meeting. Mr. Villegas Asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Pacheco made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Elanor Bravo seconded the motion. The minutes were approved, as presented.

V. Old Business

a. Update from Chair

Mr. Villegas expressed his gratitude to Mr. Grindstaff for going over the objectives and scope of the Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board.

b. Questions

Ms. Elena Fernandez referred to the Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board (NNMCAB) Bylaws. She stated that members of the public may join the subcommittees. Members of the public are not allowed to hold an elected position but may vote and write recommendations.

VI. New Business

Mr. Villegas stated that New Business would be addressed in Discussion Items.

VII. Public Comment Period

Mr. Villegas opened the floor for public comment at 8:43 a.m.

With no public comment, Mr. Villegas closed the public comment period at 8:44 a.m.

VIII. Discussion Items

Ms. Danielle Duran stated that Mr. Villegas and she met and discussed the gaps in information and engagement with the public. Many gaps exist, but the following are the most prevalent.

- The public is unclear about the Department of Energy's (DOE) structure at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). She recommended that a DOE structural graphic be created and placed on the NNMCAB website. This will assist the public in deciphering what organization is directly related to each mission, the relationship between Triad, EM, and contractors, and assist in directing their questions to the correct entity.
- Create a DOE 101 that will offer the same information as the graphic but will also provide the history of the Pajarito Plateau and the organizational and communication structure at LANL.
- Create educational sessions that includes DOE 101 for Public Information Officers (PIO) to disseminate the information to their community members.
- Collaborate with EM/N3B to create workforce information sessions that include DOE 101. The sessions will inform the public what organizations employ them and the type of work they perform.

- **Questions**

Mr. Grindstaff asked if the DOE 101 would remain focused on the EM-LA cleanup.

Ms. Duran stated that the session would remain focused on the cleanup. The graphic will assist the public in directing their questions to the correct organization.

Ms. Maestas stated the July Board Meeting presentation contained a graphic that explained the differences between DOE, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), LANL, and EM. The July board meeting recording can be found on YouTube and the presentation will be sent out to members. A hard copy can also be found in the July Board Meeting packet.

<https://youtu.be/ckFzfkxhSzQ?si=i3ZDmjak4mIMPbUO>

Ms. Duran stated that the graphic can be utilized as one of the subcommittee's tools.

Mr. Pacheco stated that he appreciates the efforts of Mr. Villegas and Ms. Duran. The information they presented is well put together and will assist in educating the public on the DOE structure and keeping transparency.

Ms. Bravo recommended that the subcommittee expand their recruitment to diverse members of the public and education of new members should be provided by existing members after their appointment to the Board.

Ms. Duran stated that much of the public does not have the time to attend meetings. However, they will attend meetings that relate to employment.

Ms. Fernandez asked if the NNMCAB would be representing itself or offering employment for N3B at the workforce sessions.

1 Ms. Duran stated that the sessions would not discuss employment opportunities but
2 would discuss engagement with the laboratory.

3 Ms. Fernandez stated that the NNM CAB would need to make its role clear at the
4 workforce sessions. The NNM CAB must not go outside its purview. Work Plans are
5 now done by EM, and this has made the NNM CAB less effective in creating their
6 own Work Plans.

7 Ms. Duran stated that the NNM CAB can dictate how the session is structured and
8 the information that will be provided. The sessions will assist in finding more gaps
9 and engagement opportunities.

10 Mr. Villegas stated that each of the communities that can host sessions are along I-
11 25.

12 Ms. Fernandez stated that the former NNM CAB Chair, Mr. Bob Hall and herself have
13 presented information on the NNM CAB to the State Legislature and the Radioactive
14 Hazardous Materials Interim Committee. NNM CAB staff have the materials that
15 were presented, and they may assist with providing that information.

16 Ms. Maestas stated that she would share the materials presented by Mr. Hall and
17 suggested that a newsletter be created by the Public Outreach Subcommittee.

18 Mr. Grindstaff asked if Public Outreach is found in past Work Plans.

19 Ms. Maestas stated that 2023 was the first year a Work Plan was created for the
20 entire group and not for the individual committees.

21 Ms. Santistevan stated that public outreach and public education are under the
22 scope of the NNM CAB. Work plans are now created by EM-LA with approval by
23 headquarters.

24 Mr. Villegas requested a copy of the past Work Plans be provided to members of the
25 board.

26 Ms. Maestas stated that the Fiscal Year (FY) 25 Work Plan is currently being
27 constructed. NNM CAB staff will provide the FY24 Work Plan.

28 Mr. Pacheco asked when the FY begins.

29 Ms. Maestas stated that it begins on October 1st. Mr. Grindstaff is currently working
30 with EM-LA staff to produce the Work Plans.

31 Mr. Kovac asked for a status of the NNM CAB website.

32 Ms. Maestas stated that the original website is still active and being updated
33 regularly. The new website is on hold.

34 Ms. Duran asked who created the NNM CAB logo.

35 Ms. Maestas stated that Mr. Paul Torrez created the NNM CAB and EM-LA logos.

36 Mr. Pacheco stated that a PowerPoint presentation should be created to present at
37 events.

IX. Adjournment

With no additional business to discuss, Mr. Grindstaff adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Yolanda Valdez,
Executive Assistant**

Attachments

1. Public Outreach Subcommittee Meeting Agenda for 11/06/2024
2. Public Outreach Subcommittee Minutes 10/02/2024

3. * The written minutes are intended as a synopsis of the meeting.