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**Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Meeting**  
**February 12, 2014**  
**2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Cities of Gold Conference Center**  
**10-B Cities of Gold Rd.**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506**



**Minutes**

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**Meeting Attendees**

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**U.S. Department of Energy**

- 1. Pete Maggiore, DOE Assistant Manager, Environmental Projects Office
- 2. Lee Bishop, Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)
- 3. David Rhodes, DOE Environmental Projects Office
- 4. Brandt Petrasle, Department of Energy
- 5. Christina Houston, Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer

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**NNMCAB Members**

- 1. Carlos Valdez, NNMCAB Chair
- 2. Doug Sayre, NNMCAB Vice-Chair
- 3. Stephen Schmelling
- 4. Bob Villarreal
- 5. Ashley Sanderson
- 6. Alex Puglisi
- 7. Joseph Viarrial
- 8. Irene Tse-Pe
- 9. Gerard Martinez
- 10. Danny Mayfield
- 11. Manuel Pacheco
- 12. Joey Tiano
- 13. Nona Girardi
- 14. Angel Quintana

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**NNMCAB Student Members**

- 1. Jerry Trujillo
  - 2. Gary Johnson
  - 3. Kaitlin Martinez
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1 **NNMCAB Excused Absences**

- 2 1. Mary Friday
- 3 2. Bonnie Lucas
- 4 3. Mike Loya
- 5 4. Allison Majure
- 6 5. Adrian Chavez Sr.
- 7 6. Deborah Shaw

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9 **NNMCAB Absences**

- 10 1. Brenda Gallegos

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12 **NNMCAB Support Staff**

- 13 1. Menice Santistevan, Executive Director
- 14 2. Bridget Maestas, Administrative Assistant
- 15 3. William Alexander, Technical Programs and Outreach

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17 **Guests**

- 18 1. Scott Kovac, Nuclear Watch New Mexico
- 19 2. Jay Coghlan, Nuclear Watch New Mexico
- 20 3. John Tauxe, Neptune
- 21 4. Beverly Billie, Tewa Women United
- 22 5. Kathy Sanchez, Tewa Women United
- 23 6. Chris Edgmon, EDI
- 24 7. Dave McInroy, Los Alamos National Security
- 25 8. Patti Jones, Los Alamos National Security
- 26 9. Laura Day, PT&C

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27  
  
28 **\*All NNMCAB Meetings are recorded. Audio CD's have been placed on file for review at the NNMCAB**  
29 **Office, 94 Cities of Gold Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87506. The written minutes are intended as a**  
30 **synopsis of the meeting.**

1 **Minutes**

2 **I. Call to Order**

3 The monthly meeting of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB)  
4 Waste Management (WM) and Environmental Monitoring & Remediation (EM&R)  
5 Committees was held on February 12, 2014 at the Cities of Gold Conference Center in  
6 Pojoaque, New Mexico.

7 Mr. Lee Bishop the Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO) stated that on behalf of  
8 the Department of Energy (DOE) the meeting of the NNMCAB was called to order at 2:07  
9 p.m. Mr. Bishop recognized Mr. Carlos Valdez the NNMCAB Chair, the Chair presided at the  
10 meeting.

11 The Meeting of the NNMCAB was open to the public and posted in The Federal Register  
12 in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

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13  
14 **II. Approval of Agenda**

15 The Combined Committee (CC) reviewed the agenda for the February 12, 2014  
16 meeting. Mr. Danny Mayfield made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Mr.  
17 Stephen Schmelling seconded the motion. The agenda for the February 12, 2014 meeting  
18 was approved as presented.

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19  
20 **III. Approval of Minutes**

21 Mr. Valdez opened the floor for questions or comments on the minutes from the  
22 January 8, 2014 CC meeting. Seeing no comments or questions, Mr. Valdez asked for a  
23 motion.

24 Mr. Manuel Pacheco made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2014  
25 meeting as presented; Mr. Joey Tiano seconded the motion. The minutes for the January 8,  
26 2014 meeting were approved as presented.

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27  
28 **IV. Old Business**

29 Mr. Valdez asked for an update on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant permit modification.  
30

31 Mr. Bishop noted that there was currently no action on the WIPP permit modification;  
32 it is awaiting action from New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). He noted that the  
33 NNMCAB staff would be monitoring the progress of the permit modification and would  
34 provide the board with periodic updates.

35  
36 With no additional information on the permit modification Mr. Valdez moved on to the  
37 Mercury Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) comment response.

38  
39 Mr. Bishop noted that he would like to remind the members that the Final (EIS) for  
40 mercury had not been issued yet; additionally stating that to date a Record of Decision had  
41 not been issued by DOE.

1  
2 Mr. Valdez noted that the NNM CAB played an important role in coming up with the  
3 language that was attached to the SEIS, and that the NNM CAB's comments were included in  
4 the SEIS. He thanked the members for their participation in drafting the comments that had  
5 been submitted as part of the Public Comment Process.

6  
7 Mr. Schmelling asked what would be happening to the Mercury at the end of the 40  
8 year storage at the proposed facility.

9  
10 Mr. Bishop noted that he thought the SEIS was a reaction to the Department's position  
11 on the changes to mercury export laws. He noted that DOE was given the mission to address  
12 the export, on a nationwide basis. The Department looked at a near term solution for the  
13 issue, with the understanding that a long term solution has not been contemplated in detail.  
14 Mr. Bishop stated that currently 40 years is as far forward as DOE is looking.

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15  
16 **V. New Business**

17 Mr. Valdez stated that he and Mr. Alex Puglisi would be attending the Waste  
18 Management Symposia in Phoenix, AZ, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>; and that Ms. Irene Tse-Pe and Ms.  
19 Angel Quintana would be attending the Environmental Justice Conference in Washington  
20 D.C. March 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Valdez noted that the National Chairs meeting would be held at  
21 the Hanford site, at the end of April.

22  
23 With no additional new business Mr. Valdez moved on to the next item on the agenda.

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24  
25 **VI. Update from Executive Committee (EC)**

26 Mr. Valdez stated that the EC had discussed interaction between the public and board  
27 members. He noted that it is required that the NNM CAB have a public comment period, and  
28 in order to accommodate the public's ability to ask questions about the current topics, the  
29 comment period had been moved to the end of meetings. He advised the board members  
30 that all questions and comments need to be run through the chair, not addressed directly to  
31 the public.

32 Mr. Valdez noted that the EC had populated this year's calendar with possible  
33 upcoming presentations; he asked that before the next meeting the NNM CAB staff  
34 disseminate the calendar to the members. Mr. Valdez stated that the calendar is not set in  
35 stone and that the members are welcome to bring additional presentations to the EC for  
36 consideration. He also noted that the EC was considering a possible trip to Rocky Flats in the  
37 late summer/early fall time frame.

38 Mr. Valdez noted that the EC had discussed changing the meeting times for the full  
39 board meetings from the current 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. schedule to a 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
40 schedule with a networking lunch at noon. He asked if the members would prefer this newly  
41 proposed schedule.

1 The members noted by show of hands that they would prefer the new time.

2 Mr. Valdez asked Ms. Menice Santistevan to brief the NNMCAB on the LANL Public  
3 Reading Room.

4  
5 Ms. Santistevan stated that the LANL Public Reading Room is housed in the NNMCAB  
6 Office at 94 Cities of Gold Road. She noted that it is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
7 Monday – Friday, and that a flyer with information on the LANL Reading Room and  
8 additional information sources had been included in the meeting packet. Ms. Santistevan  
9 encouraged the members to make use of the available sources of information.

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10  
11 **VII. Update from DOE**

12 Mr. Bishop stated that Ms. Cate Alexander would be retiring at the end of February; he  
13 noted that her replacement had not yet been determined but a temporary appointee would  
14 likely fill in. Additionally, Mr. Bishop informed the members the NNMCAB had sent a  
15 certificate of appreciation to Ms. Alexander.

16 Mr. Bishop noted that the 3706 Campaign has 111 containers left to be repackaged,  
17 with the repacking schedule slated to be completed by the end of March, and shipments to  
18 WIPP completed by June 30, 2014.

19 Mr. Bishop stated that for information purposes he likes to provide the members with  
20 the official DOE press releases when incidents occur. He stated that this had been the case  
21 with the Las Conchas fire and with the recent WIPP salt truck fire. He noted that the current  
22 information regarding the WIPP fire is: A salt truck underground had caught on fire resulting  
23 in the evacuation of the WIPP facility. Several individuals were taken to the hospital and  
24 released the same day. Mr. Bishop noted that an incident investigation would be conducted.  
25 He stated that the WIPP facility is currently off line pending the results of the investigation  
26 and that hopefully it would be back online by March 10, 2014. That being the case shipping  
27 for the 3706 Campaign would resume at that time. Additionally he noted that the repacking  
28 of waste at TA-54 would continue throughout the WIPP outage.

29  
30 Mr. Schmelling asked if there was any speculation as to what had caused the fire.

31  
32 Mr. Bishop responded that it was speculation at this point; however, he noted that on  
33 site, workers did attempt to put the fire out with hand held fire extinguishers, and when the  
34 attempt was unsuccessful the facility was evacuated per the WIPP emergency management  
35 plan. He noted that DOE would likely do a lessons learned in response to the incident.

36  
37 Mr. Valdez asked for information on the budget for FY'14.

38  
39 Mr. Pete Maggiore stated that the budget for FY'14 was \$225 million, which was \$5  
40 million above the Presidential request. He noted that the increase should enable the  
41 successful completion of the 3706 Campaign and a good start on the Below Grade  
42 Campaign.

1  
2 With no additional questions Mr. Valdez moved on to the next agenda item.

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3  
4 **VIII. Presentation on Material Disposal Area G**

5 **a. Material Disposal Area G (MDA G)**

6 Mr. Scott Kovac from Nuclear Watch New Mexico (NWNM) gave a presentation to  
7 the NNMCAB on “Nuclear Watch New Mexico Perspective on Material Disposal Area G  
8 Cap and Cover Plan.” An electronic copy of the presentation may be obtained from  
9 the NNMCAB website at URL ([http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-](http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm)  
10 [presentations/presentations.htm](http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm)). Video of the presentation will also be available on  
11 the NNMCAB’s YouTube Channel *NNMCAB*.

12  
13 **b. Questions**

14 Mr. Bob Villarreal asked who NWNM is.

15  
16 Mr. Kovac responded that NWNM is a nonprofit organization that focuses on  
17 nuclear weapons and clean-up issues around the country, with primary focus on Los  
18 Alamos National Laboratory. Additionally he noted that they also spend time on other  
19 New Mexico sites such as WIPP and Sandia National Laboratory.

20  
21 Mr. Tiano asked where NWNM gets its funding.

22  
23 Mr. Kovac responded that NWNM gets its funding from: foundations and private  
24 donations.

25  
26 Mr. Valdez asked if there is a fault zone in TA-54.

27  
28 Mr. Kovac stated that TA-54 has no mapped fault zones; however, lies between  
29 two heavily fractured zones.

30  
31 Mr. Gerard Martinez asked if the contamination was from migration or disposal.

32  
33 Mr. Kovac stated that the contamination was due to migration.

34  
35 Dr. Nona Girardi asked if the main advantage of the Waste Control Specialist (WCS)  
36 facility was that it was lined. Dr. Girardi also asked about the clean-up of the solvent  
37 plumes under MDA G.

38  
39 Mr. Kovac responded that the WCS facility is not located over a sole source aquifer,  
40 or a fault zone. He noted that the best thing about how WCS was built is the collection  
41 system that is under the landfill which allows for constant monitoring.  
42

1 Mr. David McInroy noted that the plume under MDA G is a vapor-plume not a  
2 solvent-plume. He also noted that the plume has been monitored for 20 years and has  
3 not shown migration from its location. Mr. McInroy noted that the Corrective  
4 Measures Evaluation (CME) plan proposed the remediation of the plume using soil  
5 vapor extraction.

6  
7 Mr. Mayfield asked about the trichloroethylene (TCE) and if it can get into the  
8 groundwater.

9  
10 Mr. Kovac responded that the TCE was used in processing plutonium, and that a  
11 very small amount is considered to be hazardous. He noted that at MDA G it is in a  
12 vapor form and can be extracted using soil vapor extraction.

13  
14 Mr. Mayfield asked where the information for the NWNM presentation was  
15 obtained.

16  
17 Mr. Kovac responded that most of the information in the presentation was taken  
18 directly from the MDA G CME.

19  
20 Mr. Mayfield asked why the MDA G area does not have to be lined.

21  
22 Mr. Bishop noted that the Performance Assessment and Composite Analysis (PACA)  
23 is the document that the MDAs are required to comply with. He noted that the PACA  
24 allows the MDAs to be operated without liners, noting that at a later date an in-depth  
25 presentation on the PACA could be provided.

26  
27 Mr. Pacheco asked if Mr. Kovac could elaborate on the job creation potential of a  
28 complete MDA G clean-up.

29  
30 Mr. Kovac noted that the numbers in the presentation for cost and man hours  
31 required for the complete clean-up had been taken from the MDA G CME.

32  
33 Dr. Girardi asked about the plutonium under MDA G.

34  
35 Mr. McInroy responded that the plutonium under MDA G had been determined by  
36 the analytical lab to be questionable. He noted that there was no continuous pathway  
37 for the contamination, and in later analysis it had been determined that the readings  
38 were false.

39  
40 Mr. Doug Sayre asked if additional monitoring was needed at MDA G.  
41

1 Mr. Kovac noted that he believed that additional monitoring wells were needed, in  
2 addition to monitoring in the 200 – 800 foot range.

3  
4 Mr. Gerard Martinez noted that he was concerned with the lack of lining at MDA G.  
5 He asked why not line, why not go beyond the requirement of the PACA, and install  
6 the additional safety devices. He asked why not be safe and line.

7  
8 Mr. Bishop noted that was a fair question and could be discussed in greater detail  
9 during the PACA presentation. He noted that not all landfills and liners are equal, and  
10 liners may sound appropriate in all cases but often are not. Mr. Bishop committed to  
11 having a more in-depth discussion at a later date with the right subject matter experts  
12 present.

13  
14 Mr. Puglisi noted that many of the questions that had been posed today were  
15 answered by NMED in its response to the MDA G CME. Mr. Puglisi asked if the  
16 NNMCAB could get NMED here for an in-depth discussion on its responses to the  
17 CME. Additionally he asked if hard copies of the document were available in the LANL  
18 Reading Room.

19  
20 Mr. Bishop responded that yes the MDA G CME and all its revisions are available in  
21 hard copy at the LANL Reading Room.

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22  
23 **IX. Public Comment**

24 Mr. Valdez opened the floor for public comment at 2:46 p.m.

25  
26 Mr. Jay Coghlan, NWNM asked why MDA G isn't lined. He noted that if the county had  
27 to build a new land fill it would be required to comply with New Mexico state regulations  
28 and be lined. He noted that the short answer is that DOE self regulates and exempts itself  
29 from having liners, not only at LANL but at all of its sites.

30 Mr. Coghlan noted that he wanted to emphasize two points from Mr. Kovac's  
31 presentation. He noted that yes the vapor-plume at MDA G can be treated using soil vapor  
32 extraction. He noted that what can't be fixed is the plutonium contamination at 200 feet  
33 below grade. Mr. Coghlan pointed out that the contamination was located at the limit of the  
34 bore hole which only went down 200 feet. Mr. Coghlan noted that he did not find the  
35 explanation adequate that this contamination was due to errors in detection. He noted that  
36 soil vapor extraction will not work to extract plutonium.

37 Mr. Coghlan stated that the argument over whether MDA G should be cap and cover or  
38 remediated, hinges on the argument of whether the contaminates are truly contained. He  
39 noted that the contaminants located at 200 feet below grade argues that the contaminates  
40 are not contained. Additionally, he noted that the area under MDA G has a number of  
41 geologic features that could provide multiple contaminate pathways to groundwater. Mr.  
42 Coghlan stated that as late as 1996 the lab was claiming that groundwater contamination



1 was impossible, since the tuff was impermeable. He noted that since that time in other  
2 locations at LANL, 20 different contaminants had hit groundwater.

3 Mr. Coghlan noted that he didn't want to be hyperbolic, and was tempted to use the  
4 term Swiss cheese for MDA G; however, he stated there appears to be a number of  
5 pathways to groundwater under MDA G. He also stated that he appreciated the insightful  
6 questions that the NNM CAB was asking and cautioned the NNM CAB to be skeptical on  
7 LANL's claim that there were errors in detection.

8 Mr. Coghlan closed by stating that NWNMs position was that blocking the cap and cover  
9 is urgent and the primary concern to NWNM. He noted that once that is done other  
10 concerns would be of higher priority, giving an example of the chromium plume.

11  
12 With no additional public wishing to address the board Mr. Valdez closed public  
13 comment at 3:52 p.m.

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14  
15 **X. Adjournment.**

16 Mr. Valdez noted that the next CC meeting would be March 12, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to  
17 4:00 p.m. at the NNM CAB Office.

18  
19 With no additional business Mr. Bishop adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

20 **Respectfully Submitted**



21 **Carlos Valdez,**  
22 **NNM CAB Chair**

23  
24 **\*Minutes prepared by William Alexander, Technical Programs and Outreach, NNM CAB**

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25  
26 **Attachments:**

- 27 **1. Final NNM CAB Meeting Agenda for 02/12/2014**
- 28 **2. Final Combined Committee Meeting Minutes for 01/08/2014**
- 29 **3. NNM CAB Comment Response from Mercury SEIS Document**
- 30 **4. Presentation by Scott Kovac, Nuclear Watch New Mexico**

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31  
32 **\*All NNM CAB meetings are recorded. Audio CD's and Video DVD's have been placed on file for review**  
33 **at the NNM CAB Office, 94 Cities of Gold Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87506. The written minutes are**  
34 **intended as a synopsis of the meeting.**

35 **\*Reference documents listed in the Attachments section of these minutes may be requested for**  
36 **review from the NNM CAB Office by calling (505)989-1662.**