



**Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board**  
**Combined Committee Meeting**  
**July 9, 2014**  
**2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**NNMCAB Office**  
**94 Cities of Gold Rd.**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506**



**Minutes**

---

**Meeting Attendees**

---

**Department of Energy**

1. Lee Bishop, Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)
  2. Christina Houston, Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (ADDFO)
- 

**NNMCAB Members**

1. Manuel Pacheco, Waste Management Committee Chair
  2. Stephen Schmelling, Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Chair
  3. Nona Girardi, Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Vice-Chair
  4. Carlos Valdez
  5. Doug Sayre
  6. Bob Villarreal
  7. Alison Majure
  8. Danny Mayfield
  9. Ashley Sanderson
  10. Gerard Martinez
- 

**NNMCAB Student Members**

1. Alyssa Schreiber
  2. Kiley Bachlet
  3. Alicia Bowyer
- 

**NNMCAB Excused Absences**

1. Joey Tiano
2. Mona Varela
3. Mary Friday
4. Irene Tse-Pe
5. Deidre Roybal
6. Bonnie Lucas
7. Tessa Jo Mascareñas

1 8. Angel Quintana  
2

---

3 **NNMCAB Absences**

- 4 1. Adrian Chavez, Sr.
- 5 2. Alex Puglisi
- 6 3. Joseph Viarrial

7  
8 **NNMCAB Support Staff**

- 9 1. Menice Santistevan, Executive Director
- 10 2. Bridget Maestas, Administrative Assistant
- 11 3. William Alexander, Technical Programs and Outreach

12  
13 **Guests**

- 14 1. Patti Jones, Los Alamos National Security
- 15 2. Kaitlyn Martinez, Los Alamos National Security
- 16 3. Hvtce Miller, Intergovernmental Coordinator, Santa Fe County
- 17 4. Scott Kovac, Nuke Watch New Mexico

18 **\*All NNMCAB meetings are recorded. Audio CD's have been placed on file for review at the NNMCAB**  
19 **office, 94 Cities of Gold Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87506. The written minutes are intended as a**  
20 **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 July 9, 2014 at the NNMCAB office in Pojoaque, New Mexico.

6 Mr. Lee Bishop, DDFO stated that on behalf of the Department of Energy (DOE) the  
7 meeting of the NNMCAB was called to order at 2:02 p.m. Mr. Bishop recognized Mr. Manuel  
8 Pacheco the WM Committee Chair, who presided at the meeting.

9 The meeting of the NNMCAB was open to the public and posted in The Federal Register  
10 in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

---

11 **II. Establishment of a Quorum (11 Needed)**

12 **a. Roll Call**

13 Mr. William Alexander conducted roll call as the members arrived. At the call  
14 to order 10 members were present.

15 **b. Excused Absences**

16 Mr. Alexander recorded that the following members had excused absences:  
17 Mr. Joey Tiano, Ms. Mona Varela, Ms. Mary Friday, Ms. Irene Tse-Pe, Ms. Deidre  
18 Roybal, Ms. Bonnie Lucas, Ms. Tessa Jo Mascareñas, and Ms. Angel Quintana.

19 **c. Absences**

20 Mr. Alexander recorded that the following members were absent: Mr. Adrian  
21 Chavez, Sr., Mr. Alex Puglisi, and Mr. Joseph Viarrial.

---

22 **III. Approval of Agenda**

23 The Combined Committee (CC) reviewed the agenda for the July 9, 2014 meeting. It was  
24 proposed by Mr. Carlos Valdez that Item 5 "Update from Executive Committee" be replaced  
25 by a short presentation from Mr. Bob Villarreal.

26 Mr. Doug Sayre made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Mr. Valdez  
27 seconded the motion. The CC voted all in favor, the motion to approve the agenda as  
28 amended passed.

---

29 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

30 Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for discussion on the minutes from the April 9, 2014 CC  
31 meeting. Seeing no comments, Mr. Pacheco called for a motion.

32 Mr. Stephen Schmelling made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2014  
33 meeting as presented; Mr. Sayre seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes  
34 of the April 9, 2014 meeting as presented passed.

---

35 **V. Old Business**

36 Mr. Pacheco asked Ms. Ashley Sanderson if she would provide an overview of the  
37 Annual Evaluation Report for the members.

38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

1 Ms. Sanderson reviewed the major points in the report that was submitted by the Ad  
2 Hoc Committee. The report was a review of the 2013 annual survey results. She noted that  
3 the report was included as part of the meeting packet. After reviewing the report Ms.  
4 Sanderson opened the floor for questions or comments.

5  
6 Mr. Valdez stated that additionally, the NNMCAB receives notice of the Regional  
7 Coalition of LANL Communities (RCLC), through representation by Danny Mayfield who sits  
8 on the NNMCAB and the RCLC.

9  
10 Mr. Bishop noted that the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) presentation from the May  
11 21, 2014 meeting had received over 500 views on the NNMCAB's YouTube Channel. He  
12 noted that the YouTube channel is an additional form of advertisement for the Board.

13  
14 Mr. Pacheco noted that the report was based on the 2013 annual survey, which was  
15 created based on the NNMCAB members input on the survey.

16  
17 Ms. Santistevan noted that the requirement to conduct an annual survey was part of the  
18 old NNMCAB bylaws, noting that the new bylaws do not have the survey as a requirement.  
19 She stated that the Executive Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee would need to discuss  
20 if the annual survey should be conducted in the future.

21  
22 Mr. Sayre responded that he felt that it would be good if the Ad Hoc Committee would  
23 make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding which parts of the survey  
24 should be maintained.

25  
26 Mr. Pacheco noted that he thought the annual survey was good as an annual tool for  
27 keeping the Board on course.

28  
29 Ms. Santistevan stated that DOE usually takes a hit on the NNMCAB survey; however,  
30 noted that this year DOE scored really well receiving a, 9 out of 10 for responsiveness. This is  
31 mainly due to Lee Bishop's role as DDFO.

32  
33 With no additional discussion Mr. Pacheco moved on to new business.

---

34  
35 **VI. New Business**

36 Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for comments and discussion on Recommendation 2014-  
37 02 "Institution of Measures to Help Ensure WIPP and LANL Transuranic Disposal Operations  
38 Remain Continually Operational."

39  
40 Ms. Santistevan noted that Draft Recommendation 2014-02 was on the agenda today  
41 for the board to consider, if a quorum was present. Ms. Santistevan noted that the board  
42 was one member short of a quorum and could not vote on the recommendation; however,  
43 stated that the members were still able to discuss the recommendation and make changes.

44  
45 The members discussed the recommendation at length and decided on the following  
46 changes to the language, order, format, and content.

- 1 a. Under recommendations section move item number four up to item two and
- 2 renumber accordingly.
- 3 b. Replace “establish” in items one through three with
- 4 “establish/enhance/improve.” Consider adding language to the background
- 5 section to address the issue of “dual safety cultures present at the WIPP site.”
- 6 c. Consider revising the recommendation to create a balance between specific
- 7 language and general language.
- 8 d. Correct grammatical errors in the recommendation i.e. semicolon usage.
- 9

10 Mr. Schmelling asked if the revised recommendation would require a new fourteen day  
11 review cycle.

12  
13 Ms. Santistevan responded that the recommendation was already under the review  
14 cycle and would not require a new fourteen day notification/review. She noted that the  
15 revised recommendation would be added to the agenda for the July 30, 2014 meeting for  
16 consideration and action by the board.

---

17  
18 **VII. Presentation by Bob Villarreal**

19 **a. Presentation of Legacy Waste Data**

20 Mr. Viarrial presented information to the NNMCAB on “Legacy Waste Data.” An  
21 electronic copy of the data is available on the NNMCABs website;  
22 <http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm>

23  
24 **b. Questions**

25 Dr. Nona Girardi asked what type of liquid makes Hydrogen non-reactive: water,  
26 brine, or just any liquid.

27  
28 Mr. Villarreal responded that any liquid will suppress the hydrogen reaction.

29  
30 Mr. Schmelling asked Mr. Bishop if LANL had looked at any of this type of data in  
31 its review of the nitrate salts problem.

32  
33 Mr. Bishop responded that dinitrogen tetroxide (N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) has been considered, he  
34 noted that LANL has conducted a multitude of experiments using the known  
35 contents of the drum and to date have been unable to replicate the incident that  
36 caused the drum rupture. Additionally, he stated that the N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> is relevant and is  
37 being tested. Mr. Bishop also noted that sampling on the parent drums was  
38 completed last week and sent for analysis. He noted that the data from that  
39 would be of great help in hopefully resolving the drum issue.

---

40  
41 **VIII. Update from DOE**

42 **a. Presentation**

43 Mr. Bishop DDFO presented to the NNMCAB on “Los Alamos National  
44 Laboratory Transuranic Waste Status.” An Electronic copy of the presentation may  
45 be obtained from the NNMCAB website at URL  
46 <http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm>.

1                   **b. Questions**

2                   Mr. Sayre asked for an explanation of over packing.

3                   Mr. Bishop responded that the boxes are made to contain four 55 gallon drums,  
4                   creating an additional layer of confinement for the drums.

5  
6                   Ms. Majure asked if Terry Wallace is the Recovery Manager; what happened to  
7                   Jeff Mousseau.

8  
9                   Mr. Bishop responded that Mr. Mousseau is still the Associate Director for  
10                  Environmental Programs Directorate, and that he is reporting to Wallace on the  
11                  WIPP issue.

12  
13                  Ms. Patti Jones noted that Terry Wallace is the Principal Associate Director for  
14                  National Security and was asked by Director McMillan to oversee the WIPP  
15                  recovery effort.

16  
17                  Dr. Girardi asked how much capacity would be lost if panel seven has to be  
18                  completely closed. Additionally, she asked if anyone had been able to derive a  
19                  chemical description of what would cause the drum to rupture.

20  
21                  Mr. Bishop responded that there are plenty of recipes that can create an  
22                  explosion using the components that are present in the containers; however, the  
23                  proportions that are available in the drum in question are not capable of creating  
24                  an explosion.

25  
26                  Mr. Schmelling asked if the drum had ruptured or if the lid had popped off.

27  
28                  Mr. Bishop noted that the o ring that secures the lid had been compromised by  
29                  the pressure in the drum and the lid had popped off. He noted that it takes  
30                  approximately 30 to 60 psi to pop the drum lid.

31  
32                  Mr. Villarreal asked if the filters in the drums give a measured amount of  
33                  pressure.

34  
35                  Mr. Bishop responded that the filters are stagnant, since the hydrogen  
36                  generation in the drums is not so rapid that pressurization should be an issue.

37  
38                  Mr. Valdez asked what other sites would do with their waste that was packed  
39                  for disposal, "what's the plan."

40  
41                  Mr. Bishop noted that Waste Control Specialists is the only commercially  
42                  licensed facility that can temporarily store Transuranic waste; however, the state  
43                  of Texas has put a verbal moratorium on receiving new waste. Additionally, he  
44                  noted that the WIPP facility is offline until further notice. Mr. Bishop stated that  
45                  the other sites will most likely continue to package waste to be WIPP compliant,  
46                  and store it locally under their nuclear facility requirements, until the waste can  
47                  be shipped for permanent storage.

1  
2 Mr. Bishop noted that LANL has canceled any further retrieval until the WIPP  
3 situation is resolved.  
4

5 c. **Update on DOE Response to Recommendation 2014-01**

6 Mr. Bishop noted that there is currently one open response. He noted that in  
7 the past the budget requests have been administratively accepted as received.  
8 Mr. Bishop noted that when Ms. Christina Houston comes back full time he would  
9 have her go into the record and administratively close that out. He noted that the  
10 budget presentation in the fall would show how the budget is prioritized against  
11 what was in the recommendation.

---

12  
13 **IX. Public Comment**

14 Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for public comment at 3:36 p.m.  
15

16 Mr. Scott Kovac thanked the members for their hard work and provided an update on  
17 the WIPP issue. Mr. Kovac noted that the State wanted the problem that had caused the  
18 leak found before the panel was sealed. Additionally, he noted that the State is pulling  
19 LANLs certification for disposal at WIPP. He noted that would add more time to the process  
20 for sending waste to WIPP for disposal.  
21

22 Mr. Bishop noted that the nuances of the language in the letter were still being worked  
23 out. He stated that the words suspension vs termination is being played back and forth. Mr.  
24 Bishop stated that it was his hope the State would suspend the certification rather than  
25 terminate the certification.  
26

27 Mr. Kovac stated that he appreciates the recommendation 2014-02 that the Board is  
28 working on. Mr. Kovac noted that one discussion that the Non-Government Organizations  
29 have been having was the return of the waste drum to LANL. Mr. Kovac stated that LANL has  
30 drums at Idaho and WCS. Additionally, he noted that he had heard that only half of the  
31 HEPA filters at WIPP had been changed out, and that a new recovery plan was due at the  
32 end of August. Mr. Kovac stated that the plan includes a new exhaust shaft for WIPP.  
33

34 With no additional comments, Mr. Pacheco closed the public comment period at 3:44  
35 p.m.

---

36  
37 **X. Committee Breakout Session**

38 In lieu of the committee breakout session the members agreed to review a letter  
39 submitted by EM&R Chair Stephen Schmelling.  
40

41 Mr. Schmelling provided a letter to the members that are included in the attachment to  
42 the minutes. The letter was in regards to the sub-committees and their functionality within  
43 the NNMCAB. Mr. Schmelling noted that it would be a good idea to take a look at the two  
44 committees and see if they are the two committees that the board should have.  
45 Additionally, he noted that the committees could possibly focus on a smaller number of  
46 issues for the FY'15 work plans.  
47

1 After review of the letter the CC decided to meet in August in the NNMCAB office to  
2 hear a presentation during the first half of the meeting and have the sub-committees meet  
3 separately for the second hour of the meeting.  
4

5 **XI. Adjournment**

6 Mr. Pacheco noted that the next CC meeting would be August 13, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at  
7 the NNMCAB office. Mr. Pacheco also reminded the members that the next full board  
8 meeting would be held on July 30, 2014 at La Fonda on the Plaza at 1:00 p.m.  
9

10 With no additional business to discuss, Mr. Bishop adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

11  
12 **Respectfully Submitted,**

13 **William Alexander**  
14 **Technical Programs and Outreach**

15  
16 **Attachments:**

- 17 1. **Final Combined Committee Meeting Agenda for 07/09/2014**
- 18 2. **Final Combined Committee Meeting Minutes for 04/09/2014**
- 19 3. **Ad Hoc Committee on Annual Member Survey Report**
- 20 4. **Draft Recommendation 2014-02**
- 21 5. **Legacy Waste Data, Mr. Bob Villarreal**
- 22 6. **Presentation by Lee Bishop, DDFO, "Los Alamos National Laboratory Transuranic Waste**  
23 **Status"**
- 24 7. **Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Committees Thoughts and Ideas on Making**  
25 **them Work Better, EM&R Chair Stephen Schmelling**
- 26 8. **Final WM FY'14 Committee Work Plan**
- 27 9. **Final EM&R FY'14 Committee Work Plan**

28  
29 **Public Notice:**

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