



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board

Combined Committee Meeting

March 11, 2015

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NNMCAB Office

94 Cities of Gold Road

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506



Minutes

Meeting Attendees

Department of Energy

1. Lee Bishop, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer (CDDFO)
2. Cheryl Rodriguez, Los Alamos Field Office

NNMCAB Members

1. Manuel Pacheco, WM Committee Chair
2. Stephen Schmelling, EM&R Committee Chair
3. Ashley Sanderson, EM&R Committee Vice-Chair
4. Joey Tiano
5. Mona Varela
6. Michael Valerio
7. Tessa Jo Mascareñas
8. Irene Tse-Pe
9. Nona Girardi
10. Joseph Viarrial
11. Gerard Martinez

NNMCAB Student Members

1. Alyssa Schreiber
2. Savannah Martinez

NNMCAB Members Excused Absences

1. Doug Sayre
 2. Carlos Valdez
 3. Danny Mayfield
 4. Angel Quintana
-

NNMCAB Member Absences

1. Alex Puglisi
 2. Bonnie Lucas
 3. Mary Friday
-

NNMCAB Staff

1. Menice Santistevan, Executive Director
 2. Bridget Maestas, Administrative Assistant
 3. William Alexander, Technical Programs and Outreach
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Guests

1. Scott Kovac, Nuke Watch New Mexico
2. Danny Katzman, Los Alamos National Security
3. Patti Jones, Los Alamos National Security

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Minutes

I. Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB) Waste Management (WM) and Environmental Monitoring & Remediation (EM&R) Committees was held on March 11, 2015 at the NNMCAB Office in Pojoaque, New Mexico.

Mr. Lee Bishop, CDDFO stated that on behalf of the Department of Energy (DOE) the meeting of the NNMCAB was called to order at 2:04 p.m. Mr. Bishop recognized Mr. Manuel Pacheco the WM Committee Chair, who presided at the meeting.

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

II. Establishment of a Quorum (11 Needed)

a. Roll Call

Mr. William Alexander conducted roll call as the members arrived. At the call to order 10 members were present. Ms. Sanderson called into the meeting at 2:06 p.m. and Mr. Martinez arrived at the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

b. Excused Absences

Mr. Alexander recorded that the following members had an excused absence: Mr. Doug Sayre, Mr. Carlos Valdez, Mr. Danny Mayfield, and Ms. Angel Quintana.

c. Absences

Mr. Alexander recorded that the following members were absent: Mr. Alex Puglisi, Ms. Bonnie Lucas, and Ms. Mary Friday.

III. Approval of Agenda

The Combined Committee (CC) reviewed the Agenda for the March 11, 2015 meeting. Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for comments.

Mr. Tiano made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Ms. Varela seconded the motion. The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for discussion on the minutes from the February 18, 2015 CC meeting.

Mr. Schmelling made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Tiano seconded the motion. The members voted all in favor, the motion to approve the minutes as presented passed.

V. Introductions

Mr. Pacheco asked for introductions from the board members and all attending guests.

VI. Old Business

a. Consideration and Action on Draft Recommendation 2015-01

Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for discussion on Draft Recommendation 2015-01 "Identification and Preparation of Disposition Site(s) to Enable LANL Transuranic Disposal Operations and Nation's Other Sites' Waste Disposal Operations to Remain

Continually Operational.” Mr. Pacheco provided an overview of the Draft Recommendation and the history behind it in addition to what the recommendation was proposing.

The committee discussed the changes to the recommendation that were proposed. After discussion, the members accepted the following changes to the draft recommendation.

1. On line 3, page 1; add “Interim” to title, before Disposition.
2. On line 5, page 1; remove “[listing them specifically?].”
3. On Line 22, page 1; add “a comma” after for example.
4. On lines 14 and 15, page 2; remove the references section.

Mr. Schmelling made a motion to approve Draft Recommendation 2015-01 with the proposed changes; Mr. Tiano seconded the motion. The members voted all in favor, the motion to approve Draft Recommendation 2015-01, as amended passed.

b. Consideration and Action on Draft Recommendation 2015-02

Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for discussion on Draft Recommendation 2015-02 “Budget Priorities for FY 2016 for LANL EM Cleanup Work.” Mr. Pacheco provided an overview of the Draft Recommendation and the history behind it in addition to what the recommendation was proposing.

The committee discussed the changes to the recommendation that were proposed. After discussion, the members accepted the following changes to the draft recommendation.

1. On line17, page1; remove “what we think”, replace with “what we determine are”.
2. On line 32, page 1; remove “what we think”, replace with “it has determined”.
3. On line 1, page 2; remove “process of removing”, replace with “dispositioning of”.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve Draft Recommendation 2015-02 with the proposed changes; Mr. Schmelling seconded the motion. The members voted all in favor, the motion to approve Draft Recommendation 2015-02 as amended passed.

c. Discussion on Draft Recommendation 2015-03

Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for discussion on Draft Recommendation 2015-03 “Supplemental Environmental Projects.” He noted that the recommendation would be on the agenda for the March 25, 2015 board meeting for consideration and action.

The members discussed grammatical and editorial changes that should be incorporated into the recommendation. Additionally, it was stated that members would send comments on the recommendation to the author for incorporation, before the March board meeting.

With no additional old business to discuss and to get back on schedule, Mr. Pacheco proposed moving to agenda item 7, Presentation by DOE. The members agreed to move to the presentation by DOE.

VII. New Business

Due to time constraints in the meeting schedule the members opted not to discuss new business.

VIII. Update from the Executive Committee

Due to time constraints in the meeting schedule the members opted not to hear an update from the Executive Committee.

IX. Presentation

Chromium Update

Ms. Cheryl Rodriguez, DOE Los Alamos Site Office, and Mr. Danny Katzman, LANS, gave a presentation entitled "Chromium Interim Measures Project and Ongoing Plume Investigation." An electronic copy of the presentation may be obtained from the NNMCAB website; <http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm>.

Questions

Mr. Martinez asked what is the change in elevation from the chromium source to the point of infiltration.

Mr. Katzman responded that it was approximately a 300 foot change in elevation between the source point and the infiltration point.

Mr. Martinez asked why the concentration would be higher upstream rather than downstream.

Mr. Katzman stated that it is believed that this is the original pace that it entered the regional aquifer and that it may still be entering the aquifer at the R-42 area.

Mr. Schmelling asked for clarification on why the ground water appears to flow in two directions.

Mr. Katzman noted that the modeling is showing that, because the gradient is so flat in the area, it appears that the flow is spreading within the arc of the two arrows on the map.

Mr. Pacheco asked if it was possible that the flow was static in the area.

Mr. Katzman responded that it is possible.

Dr. Girardi asked about R-43 on the map and why it appears to have increasing concentrations.

Mr. Katzman responded that it is not fully understood why the concentrations are increasing; however, LANL is looking at a variety of possibilities. Additionally, he noted that vadose zone hydrology is very complex and it is possible that the R-43 area may have an entry point. Mr. Katzman also noted that a second possibility is that minerals in the area may have been reducing the chromium and that the minerals that created the reducing environment have all been used up.

Mr. Schmelling asked how deep the extraction well screens are.

Mr. Katzman stated that the screens are between 60 to 80 feet deep.

Mr. Schmelling asked if the changes in the chemistry of the extracted water would cause any problems when re-injected into the aquifer.

Mr. Katzman stated that LANL is going to be running bench scale tests to identify the answer to that exact question and move forward accordingly.

Mr. Schmelling asked if the work would occur year round.

Mr. Katzman noted that once the injection wells are up and running the pumping is scheduled to occur year round. Additionally, he noted that until the injection wells are complete the pumping is limited by the regulations in the land application permits.

Mr. Schmelling asked what the timeframe for the project accomplishment is.

Mr. Katzman responded that LANL does not have a very simple graphic on that and that he would take it as a recommendation to produce something. Additionally, he noted that a Corrective Measures Evaluation is anticipated to be delivered to the New Mexico Environment Department in 2017.

Dr. Girardi asked if the resin in the ion columns was a limiting factor and what the cost of the project would be.

Mr. Katzman stated that yes the resin is a limiting factor. He noted that the chambers are run in series for redundancy and that the water coming out of the first column is tested for concentration to verify that the ion exchange is cleaning the water. Mr. Katzman noted that at this point the cost of the final remedy is unknown; however the annual cost for the interim measures once the infrastructure is in place should be less than \$5 million per year.

Mr. Tiano asked how many pounds of chromium have been removed thus far.

Mr. Katzman responded that approximately 20 pounds has been removed. Additionally, he noted that the amount that is anticipated to be in the aquifer is about 2,000 pounds. Mr. Katzman noted that the members should keep in mind that the interim measure is designed to contain the plume, not for mass removal of the chromium. That would be part of the final remedy selection.

X. Public Comment

Mr. Pacheco opened the public comment period at 3:31 p.m.

Mr. Scott Kovac from Nuke Watch New Mexico (NWNM) stated that he did like the Supplemental Environmental Projects Recommendation. He noted that NWNM also has concerns about the fines and penalties assessed. He asked if the recommendation could be both a fine and a SEP, noting that it was just an idea, "does it have to be one or the other or can it be both." Mr. Kovac also asked if Mr. Katzman could answer how many gallons of water would be pumped for the chromium project.

Mr. Katzman responded that if it is assumed that there are three wells operating, pumping 450 gallons per minute total, operating 350 days per year would be 226 million gallons per year.

With no additional comments, Mr. Pacheco closed public comment at 3:33 p.m.

XI. Update from the DDFO

Mr. Bishop noted that Mr. Pete Maggiore would be moving over to the National Nuclear Security Administration office. He stated that the Environmental Management (EM) site office was splitting off from the NNSA to become its own office. Mr. Bishop stated that Ms. Christine Gelles would be coming out to New Mexico to serve as the acting EM Site Manager for the next 60 to 90 days.

Mr. Bishop noted that an Industry Day had taken place on March 3, 2015 to begin the process for the new EM contracts for LANL clean-up. Mr. Bishop stated that a bridge contract for the time between the issuance of a new contract and an end to the current contracts, is anticipated to last between 18 to 24 months.

Mr. Bishop noted that the penalties and fines are being addressed between Headquarters and the New Mexico Environment Department. He noted that if a settlement is not reached then the process could move to the Department of Justice and legal hearings.

XII. Subcommittee Break Out Session

Due to the limited time remaining in the agenda the committees voted to defer the breakout session to the next NNMCAB Committee Meeting. Mr. Pacheco noted that the next Committee meeting would be April 8, 2015.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Pacheco noted that the next board meeting would be on March 25, 2015 at La Fonda on the Plaza, in Santa Fe.

With no additional business to discuss, Mr. Pacheco adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Alexander
Technical Programs and Outreach

Attachments:

- 1. Final Combined Committee Meeting Agenda for 03/11/2015**
- 2. Final Combined Committee Meeting Minutes for 02/18/2015**
- 3. Draft Recommendation 2015-01 "Identification and Preparation of Disposition Site(s) to Enable LANL Transuranic Disposal Operations and Nation's Other Sites' Waste Disposal Operations to Remain Continually Operational," Author, Executive Committee**
- 4. Draft Recommendation 2015-02 "Budget Priorities for FY 2016 for LANL EM Cleanup Work," Author, Mr. Valdez**
- 5. Draft Recommendation 2015-03 "Supplemental Environmental Projects," Author, Mr. Alex Puglisi**
- 6. Presentation by Cheryl Rodriguez, DOE, and Danny Katzman, LANS, "Chromium Interim Measures Project and Ongoing Plume Investigation"**
- 7. Fiscal Year 2015 Committee Work Plans**
- 8. Committee Rosters**

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