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**Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board  
Combined Committee Meeting**

**April 8, 2015  
2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
NNMCAB Office  
94 Cities of Gold Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506**



**Minutes**

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**Meeting Attendees**

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**Department of Energy**

1. Lee Bishop, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer (Co-DDFO)
2. David Rhodes, Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office

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**NNMCAB Members**

1. Stephen Schmelling, EM&R Committee Chair
2. Manuel Pacheco, WM Committee Chair
3. Ashley Sanderson, EM&R Committee Vice-Chair
4. Angel Quintana, WM Committee Vice-Chair
5. Carlos Valdez
6. Joey Tiano
7. Joshua Madalena
8. Mona Varela
9. Gerard Martinez
10. Mary Friday
11. Douglas Sayre
12. Michael Whiting
13. Tessa Mascareñas
14. Alex Puglisi

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**NNMCAB Student Members**

1. Deidre Roybal
  2. Alyssa Schreiber
  3. Savannah Martinez
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1 **NNMCAB Members Excused Absences**

- 2 1. Nona Girardi
- 3 2. Danny Mayfield
- 4 3. Irene Tse-Pe
- 5 4. Michael Valerio

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6  
7 **NNMCAB Member Absences**

- 8 1. Bonnie Lucas
- 9 2. Joseph Viarrial

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10  
11 **NNMCAB Staff**

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

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15  
16 **Guests**

- 17 1. Scott Kovac, Nuke Watch New Mexico
- 18 2. Patti Jones, Los Alamos National Security

19 **\*All NNMCAB meetings are recorded. Audio CD's have been placed on file for review at the NNMCAB**  
20 **office, 94 Cities of Gold Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87506. The written minutes are intended as a**  
21 **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 April 8, 2015 at the NNMCAB Office in Pojoaque, New Mexico.

6 Mr. Lee Bishop, Co-DDFO stated that on behalf of the Department of Energy (DOE) the  
7 meeting of the NNMCAB was called to order at 2:03 p.m. Mr. Bishop recognized Mr.  
8 Stephen Schmelling the EM&R 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.

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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 13 members were present. Mr. Martinez arrived at the meeting at 2:20  
15 p.m.  
16

17 **b. Excused Absences**

18 Mr. Alexander recorded that the following members had an excused absence:  
19 Mr. Michael Valerio, Mr. Danny Mayfield, Ms. Irene Tse-Pe, and Ms. Nona Girardi.  
20

21 **c. Absences**

22 Mr. Alexander recorded that the following members were absent: Ms. Bonnie  
23 Lucas and Mr. Joseph Viarrial.  
24

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25 **III. Approval of Agenda**

26 The Combined Committee (CC) reviewed the Agenda for the April 8, 2015 meeting. Mr.  
27 Schmelling opened the floor for comments.  
28

29 Ms. Quintana made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Mr. Tiano seconded  
30 the motion. The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed.  
31

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32 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

33 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for discussion on the minutes from the March 11, 2015  
34 CC meeting.  
35

36 Mr. Pacheco made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Schmelling  
37 seconded the motion. The members voted all in favor, the motion to approve the minutes  
38 as presented passed.  
39

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40 **V. Introductions**

41 Mr. Pacheco asked for introductions from the board members and all attending guests.  
42

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43 **VI. Presentation**

44 **NNMCAB Student Members**

45 NNMCAB Student Members: Alyssa Schreiber, Deidre Roybal, and Savannah Martinez  
46 gave a presentation entitled, "The Young Leaders of Tomorrow." An electronic copy of  
47

1 the presentation may be obtained from the NNM CAB website;  
2 <http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm>.

#### 3 4 **Questions**

5 Mr. Martinez noted that he liked the mentorship idea for the student members and  
6 noted that he would propose that the student members have a group lead.

7  
8 Mr. Pacheco asked how the students would propose to better engage the groups at a  
9 committee level.

10  
11 Ms. Martinez responded that information could be broken down and presented to  
12 smaller groups allowing for greater interaction.

13  
14 Ms. Roybal suggested using a more interactive form of media for presentations, like  
15 Prezi. Noting that this would better engage the students than a standard power point.

16  
17 Ms. Schreiber noted that the information should be presented on a more personal  
18 level. Get the students involved; show them that it is their land and their future.

19  
20 Mr. Schmelling asked the students if there should be more student members.

21  
22 Ms. Schreiber responded that six to seven student members would allow the  
23 students to interact with one another and communicate within their group, to provide a  
24 student opinion to the NNM CAB.

25  
26 Mr. Sayre asked if recruitment should be opened up to more of the schools in the  
27 area.

28  
29 Ms. Roybal responded that yes the recruitment should be expanded to include  
30 additional schools and that the NNM CAB should also consider expanding to colleges.

31  
32 Ms. Schreiber noted that college students may have a more flexible schedule that  
33 would help in attending meetings.

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#### 34 **VII. Old Business** 35 **Discussion on Draft Recommendation 2015-03**

36  
37  
38 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for discussion on Draft Recommendation 2015-03  
39 "Supplemental Environmental Projects." He asked the recommendation author Mr.  
40 Puglisi to provide an overview of the recommendation.

41  
42 Mr. Puglisi provided an overview of the Draft Recommendation and the history  
43 behind it in addition to what the recommendation was proposing. He noted that the  
44 intent of the recommendation was "It is the intent of the NNM CAB to ensure that DOE-  
45 EM funds programmed and allocated for the cleanup and mitigation of legacy waste  
46 disposal at LANL are used for those purposes and for the benefit of the citizens of  
47 northern New Mexico, and any other affected areas, where the basis of the violations  
48 cited by NMED occurred."

1  
2 The members discussed grammatical, editorial, and content changes that had been  
3 incorporated into the recommendation.

4  
5 Mr. Valdez made a motion to approve Draft Recommendation 2015-03 as presented;  
6 Mr. Sayre seconded the motion.

7  
8 Mr. Valdez proposed that the recommendation be forwarded on for consideration at  
9 the chairs meeting

10  
11 Mr. Martinez made a motion to include the submittal of the recommendation to the  
12 national level in the previous motion for approval of the recommendation; Mr. Sayre  
13 seconded the motion.

14  
15 The members voted all in favor of approving Draft Recommendation 2015-03 as  
16 presented and forwarding it on to the EM SAAB chairs meeting for consideration at the  
17 national level.

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18  
19 **VIII. Presentation**

20 **Chromium Update**

21 Mr. Rhodes, Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office, gave a  
22 presentation entitled "Supplemental Information for Fiscal Year 2017 Project  
23 Prioritization." An electronic copy of the presentation may be obtained from the  
24 NNMCAB website; <http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm>.  
25 The purpose of the presentation was to provide information to the NNMCAB to allow  
26 them to prioritize the six projects proposed for FY'17.

27  
28 **Questions**

29 Ms. Friday asked if there is any change in funding if it is perceived that progress is  
30 made, like receiving certificates of completion (COC).

31  
32 Mr. Rhodes responded that can sometimes be the case.

33  
34 Mr. Pacheco asked if there is more than one COC for each aggregate area.

35  
36 Mr. Rhodes responded yes there are a total of 2,129 Solid Waste Management Units  
37 (SWMU) or Areas of Concern (AOC) that will need a COC. Additionally, he noted that  
38 about 1,000 of those SWMUs or AOCs have been completed.

39  
40 Mr. Mr. Pacheco asked if a blanket letter would be written to cover multiple COCs.

41  
42 Mr. Rhodes responded that to his knowledge LANL/DOE has never written a letter  
43 that requests COCs for more than 1 to 12 sites at one time.

44  
45 Mr. Schmelling asked if you had twice as much money could you go twice as fast.

46  
47 Mr. Rhodes stated that you can't necessarily go twice as fast; however, if you have  
48 enough money you can work them all concurrently by bringing in another contractor.

1  
2 Ms. Friday asked if Congress ever looks at the number of COC letters that are sitting  
3 at the New Mexico Environment Department waiting on approval.

4  
5 Mr. Rhodes responded that DOE reports the number of COCs submitted not the  
6 number of COCs received. He noted that Congress knows the State is backlogged, since  
7 DOE includes that information in its annual budget submittal.

8  
9 Mr. Schmelling asked, of all the projects under consideration, if the TA-21 project  
10 had the closest proximity to significant numbers of people.

11  
12 Mr. Rhodes responded that yes, of all the sites that the NNMCAB is considering, the  
13 TA-21 project has the closest proximity to a populated area.

14  
15 Mr. Puglisi asked if the TA-21 item is just to stabilize the area not demolition of the  
16 building.

17  
18 Mr. Rhodes responded that it could cost approximately \$1 million to get the  
19 equipment out of the building and disposed of at the low level waste (LLW) facilities.

20  
21 Mr. Bishop noted that removal of the interior higher level equipment and  
22 infrastructure radiation items would leave a less contaminated building shell in place  
23 and ready for demolition.

24  
25 Mr. Whiting asked if anyone could list the LLW radiation class levels.

26  
27 Mr. Bishop responded that LLW classes are:

- 28 • Class A, least radioactive
- 29 • Class B, approximately 10,000 disintegrations per minute
- 30 • Class C, highest level of Nuclear Regulatory Commission waste
- 31 • Greater than Class C/TRU for commercial/government classification, highest  
32 levels of radiation.

33  
34 Ms. Sanderson asked what the health risk was associated with the remaining 13  
35 sites in Upper Los Alamos Canyon.

36  
37 Mr. Rhodes stated that the area has been cleaned to less than the soil screening  
38 levels. Additionally, he noted that for those sites the data analysis needs to be  
39 completed and the report written.

40  
41 Mr. Sayre asked if DOE had to enter into an agreement with the private land owners  
42 to work on their land.

43  
44 Mr. Rhodes responded that each individual owner has an Access Agreement with  
45 DOE/LANL that allows DOE/LANL to work on the private land.

46  
47 Each of the members was provided a ballot. The ballots for prioritization of the  
48 projects were tallied. The result in order of priority were:

- 1 • 1. Aggregate Area Prioritized Soil Cleanups
- 2 • 2. Aggregate Area Supplemental Investigation Reports (Phase II)
- 3 • 3. Upper Los Alamos Canyon Cleanup
- 4 • 4. MDA L Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE)
- 5 • 5. TA-21 Building 257 Decontamination and Stability Operations
- 6 • 6. Initial Aggregate Area Soil Investigations (Phase I)

7 Mr. Schmelling noted that the NNMCAB would work up a recommendation using  
8 the results from today's vote for the FY'17 project prioritization. He noted that the  
9 recommendation would be on the agenda for consideration and action at the May  
10 combined committee meeting.

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11 **IX. Update from the Executive Committee**

12 Mr. Sayre noted that the Spring Chairs Meeting would be held April 21-23 in  
13 Augusta Georgia. He stated that attending the meeting would be Mr. Sayre, Ms. Tse-Pe,  
14 Mr. Martinez, Ms. Schreiber, and Mr. Gardipe. Mr. Sayre advised the members that  
15 Recommendation 2015-01 on TRU Waste and Recommendation 2015-03 on  
16 Supplemental Environmental Projects would be on the agenda for discussion at the  
17 meeting. He noted that the NNMCAB accomplishments topic would be on the Waste  
18 Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) recovery issues.

19 Mr. Sayre noted that there would be a NNMCAB Combined Committee meeting and  
20 Executive Committee meeting on May 13, 2015. Additionally, noting that the next full  
21 board meeting would be on May 20, 2015 at Sandia Resort in Albuquerque.

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22 **X. Update from the Department of Energy**

23 Mr. Bishop noted that at the meeting on March 25, 2015, the NNMCAB met the new  
24 Acting Environmental Management Field Manager Christine Gelles. He noted that the  
25 new Environmental Management Field Office has been stood up and currently has a  
26 skeleton crew. Mr. Bishop advised the members that the new EM Office is in the process  
27 of hiring additional staff.

28 Mr. Bishop stated that the EM group is working on the new contract that will be put  
29 in place for the continued clean-up at the Los Alamos site. He advised the members that  
30 DOE would be briefing the NNMCAB as information is available on the Memorandum of  
31 Understanding between EM and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

32 Mr. Bishop noted that Mr. Joe Franco would be leaving the WIPP facility for a new  
33 posting at Hanford. Additionally, he noted that Mr. Franco had asked for the assignment  
34 and the new posting had been done at his request. Mr. Bishop noted that a new site  
35 manger would be hired for the WIPP site.

36 Mr. Bishop also noted that he had accepted a six month detail for TRU Waste  
37 Recovery at Los Alamos for Headquarters. He noted that he had retained his position as  
38 DDFO and contracting. Mr. Bishop stated that he would be splitting his time between  
39 Headquarters and local duties 60/40.

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40 **XI. Public Comment Period**

41 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for public comment at 4:00 p.m. He invited Mr.  
42 Scott Kovac of Nuke Watch New Mexico to address the board.

1 Mr. Kovac thanked the students for their presentation. Mr. Kovac noted that it is  
 2 interesting that the clean-up costs at Los Alamos are secret. He noted that the question  
 3 is why, asking “is there an opportunity in the upcoming EM contract to make them less  
 4 of a secret.” Mr. Kovac asked if the NNMCAB would have any input into the future EM  
 5 contract. He stated that LANS gets a big chunk of money approximately \$188 million and  
 6 then we don’t really know how it’s parsed out after that. He noted that it seems like  
 7 the’re being protected a little too much. Mr. Kovac stated that we were not able to talk  
 8 about any of the FY’17 projects costs during today’s presentation. Is there a way to open  
 9 that up with the new EM contract? Mr. Kovac noted that there had been four intent to  
 10 assess stipulated penalties under the Consent Orders in the last week or two. He noted  
 11 that each year NMED and LANS compile a list of 15 deliverables that will be subject to  
 12 penalties. Additionally, noting that Nuke Watch New Mexico thinks that it is a good  
 13 thing that NMED is assessing these penalties. He stated that the penalties are \$1000 a  
 14 day for the first 30 days and \$10,000 a day for every day after. He noted that we need to  
 15 work harder at making it more efficient and completing projects on time.

16  
 17 With no other members of the public wishing to make public comment, Mr.  
 18 Schmelling closed the public comment period at 4:07 p.m.

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19  
 20 **XII. Subcommittee Breakout Session**

21 The subcommittees entered into breakout sessions to work on the mid-year review  
 22 of the FY’15 committee work plans.

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23  
 24 **XIII. Adjournment**

25 Mr. Schmelling noted that the next board meeting would be on May 20, 2015 at  
 26 Sandia Resort, in Albuquerque.

27  
 28 With no additional business to discuss, Mr. Schmelling adjourned the meeting at  
 29 4:30 p.m.

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30  
 31 **Respectfully Submitted,**

32 **William Alexander**  
 33 **Technical Programs and Outreach**

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34  
 35 **Attachments**

- 36 **1. Final Combined Committee Meeting Agenda for 04/08/2015**
- 37 **2. Final Combined Committee Meeting Minutes for 03/11/2015**
- 38 **3. Draft Recommendation 2015-03 “Supplemental Environmental Projects,” Author, Mr. Alex**  
 39 **Puglisi**
- 40 **4. Presentation by David Rhodes, DOE, “Supplemental Information for FY 2017 Project**  
 41 **Prioritization”**
- 42 **5. EM-LA FY17 Cleanup Activities for NNMCAB Prioritization Table**
- 43 **6. Fact Sheet from the Technical Assessment Team Report “ Investigation of Incident at Waste**  
 44 **Isolation Pilot Plant”**
- 45 **7. Fiscal Year 2015 Committee Work Plans**
- 46 **8. Committee Rosters**

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