



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

**May 13, 2015
2:00 p.m. to 4:30 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 (Co-DDFO)
2. David Rhodes, Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office

NNMCAB Members

1. Stephen Schmelling, EM&R Committee Chair
2. Ashley Sanderson, EM&R Vice-Chair
3. Nona Girardi
4. Gerard Martinez
5. Daniel Mayfield
6. Douglas Sayre
7. Irene Tse-Pe
8. Mona Varela

NNMCAB Student Members

1. Alyssa Schreiber
2. Deidre Roybal
3. Savannah Martinez

NNMCAB Members Excused Absences

1. Mary Friday
2. Joshua Madalena
3. Tessa Jo Mascareñas
4. Manuel Pacheco
5. Angel Quintana
6. Joey Tiano
7. Carlos Valdez
8. Michael Valerio

- 1 9. Joseph Viarrial
- 2 10. Michael Whiting

3

4 **NNMCAB Member Absences**

- 5 1. Alex Puglisi

6

7 **NNMCAB Staff**

- 8 1. Menice Santistevan, Executive Director
- 9 2. Bridget Maestas, Administrative Assistant

10

11 **Guests**

- 12 1. Michele Jacquez-Ortiz, U.S. Senator Tom Udall's Office
- 13 2. Kaitlin Martinez, Los Alamos National Security
- 14 3. Mike Loya, Sustainable Research Center

15 ***All NNM CAB meetings are recorded. Audio CD's have been placed on file for review at the NNM CAB**
16 **office, 94 Cities of Gold Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87506. The written minutes are intended as a**
17 **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 May 13, 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 2:07 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.

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

12 **a. Roll Call**

13 Ms. Bridget Maestas conducted roll call as the members arrived. At the call to
14 order 6 members were present. Dr. Girardi arrived at 2:10 p.m. and Mr. Martinez
15 arrived at 2:11 p.m.

16 **b. Excused Absences**

17 Ms. Maestas recorded that the following members had an excused absence:
18 Ms. Mary Friday, Mr. Joshua Madalena, Ms. Tessa Jo Mascareñas, Mr. Manuel
19 Pacheco, Ms. Angel Quintana, Mr. Joey Tiano, Mr. Carlos Valdez, Mr. Michael
20 Valerio, Mr. Joseph Viarrial, and Mr. Michael Whiting.

21 **c. Absences**

22 Ms. Maestas recorded that the following member was absent: Mr. Alex
23 Puglisi.

24 **III. Approval of Agenda**

25 The Combined Committee (CC) reviewed the Agenda for the May 13, 2015 meeting. Mr.
26 Schmelling opened the floor for comments.

27 Mr. Sayre made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Mr. Mayfield seconded
28 the motion. The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed.

29 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

30 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for discussion on the minutes from the April 8, 2015 CC
31 meeting.

32 Mr. Sayre made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. Sanderson
33 seconded the motion. The members voted all in favor, the motion to approve the minutes
34 as presented passed.

35 **V. Introductions**

36 Mr. Schmelling asked for introductions from the board members and all attending
37 guests.

38

1 **VI. Old Business**

2 **Discussion on Draft Recommendation 2015-04**

3
4 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for discussion on Draft Recommendation 2015-04,
5 "Fiscal Year 2017 Project Prioritization."
6

7 Mr. Sayre noted that without a quorum of the board present, consideration and action
8 on the recommendation could not take place. He recommended that consideration and
9 action on the draft recommendation be moved to the May 20, 2015 Board meeting at
10 Sandia Resort.
11

12 With no additional old business to discuss Mr. Schmelling moved on to the next agenda
13 item.

14 **VII. New Business**

15
16 Mr. Schmelling noted that included in the Combined Committee meeting packets today,
17 was an announcement for the upcoming May Board Meeting at Sandia Resort. Mr.
18 Schmelling noted that the highlight of the meeting would be a summary of the findings in
19 the Accident Investigation Board Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Phase II Investigation
20 Report.
21

22 Dr. Girardi asked if the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Plutonium
23 Disposition fell under the purview of the NNMCAB.
24

25 Mr. Bishop responded that it is under the NNMCABs purview only to the extent that
26 DOE/LANL would handle waste that comes into TA-55 for storage at TA-54. Mr. Bishop
27 noted that the material, which is being dispositioned is not classified as waste.
28

29 Mr. Mayfield asked if the material comes to Los Alamos, will the cost of its disposal
30 come out of the budget for the site.
31

32 Mr. Bishop responded that typically, once you accept the surplus material any
33 associated waste would be the responsibility of the site.
34

35 Mr. Mayfield asked what the life cycle of a plutonium pit is.
36

37 Mr. Bishop responded that the pits are handled at TA-55 at the plutonium processing
38 facility. He noted that the pits are constantly maintained as part of the weapons stockpile
39 maintenance. Mr. Bishop encouraged the members on an individual basis to provide their
40 comments during the public comment period.
41

1 Mr. Martinez asked if the NNMCAB could have a presentation from the team on the
2 cause and effect of global warming on the local area.
3

4 Mr. Bishop noted that he couldn't tie that into environmental scope; however it could
5 be a potential topic in the future.
6

7 **VIII. Update from Executive Committee**

8 Mr. Sayre provided a brief update on the Spring Chairs' Meeting at Savannah River. He
9 noted that the topics at the meeting had covered budget for 2016, a tour of the site and the
10 waste problems that they are facing, and a presentation on what each of the other sites is
11 currently working on. Mr. Sayre noted that the NNMCAB had presented the
12 recommendation regarding interim storage. He noted that after some discussion and
13 changes the recommendation had been melded with a recommendation submitted by
14 Hanford and approved by the Chairs for dissemination to the eight CABs.

15 Mr. Sayre stated that the members had also been able to tour the Savannah River Site
16 Ecology Lab.

17 Mr. Sayre stated that the NNMCAB would be hosting the Fall Chairs' Meeting September
18 2015, he noted that the meeting would be at La Fonda.
19

20 Ms. Tse-Pe noted that at the Chairs meeting the topic of students on the board at the
21 NNMCAB had been brought up. She noted that she appreciates that the NNMCAB has
22 students and the recommendations that the students provide to the NNMCAB executive
23 committee. Ms. Tse-Pe noted that the students had submitted three recommendations to
24 the Executive committee: create a student committee, provide each student with a mentor
25 from the board, and give each student an orientation.
26

27 Mr. Martinez noted that many of the attendees had also seen the NNMCABs student
28 recruitment video. He noted that the LANL/DOE site staff had set the bar very high for their
29 performance and stated that he was fortunate to be a part of such a great board.
30

31 Mr. Sayre stated that two members from the NNMCAB would be attending the Rad
32 Waste Summit in Nevada. He noted that he and Mr. Schmelling would be attending that on
33 behalf of the NNMCAB.
34

35 Mr. Schmelling noted that there would not be a Combined Committee meeting in June,
36 but there will be a LANL tour for the new members. He noted that all members were
37 welcome to attend the tour.
38

39 **IX. Update from DDFO**

40 Mr. Bishop stated that there were 47 justifications in the recently released Phase II AIB
41 report, he noted that 22 of those belong to Los Alamos. Mr. Bishop stated that the

1 Agreement in Principal was published between the Department of Energy and the New
2 Mexico Environment Department (NMED), for the supplemental environmental projects in
3 lieu of fines.

4 Mr. Bishop stated that Mr. Ted Wyka from DOE Headquarters would be at the May 20,
5 2015 meeting to brief the members on the findings in the Phase II AIB report.

6 Mr. Bishop noted that panel 6 at WIPP has been closed and the team has moved on to
7 the closure of Panel 7, Room 7.

8
9 **X. Presentation**

10 **Monitoring Reports**

11 Mr. David Rhodes, DOE Los Alamos Site Office, gave a presentation entitled
12 "Groundwater Periodic Monitoring Reports." An electronic copy of the presentation
13 may be obtained from the NNMCAB website; [http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-](http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm)
14 [presentations/presentations.htm](http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm).

15
16 **Questions**

17 Mr. Sayre asked if NMED had employees that accompany the LANL employees during
18 sample collection.

19
20 Mr. Rhodes responded that there are cases where an NMED representative is in the
21 field during sample collection; however, normally LANL collects a split sample for the
22 NMED and passes that sample off to them.

23
24 Mr. Mayfield asked when the coring for the well is done, is sampling conducted during
25 the drilling.

26
27 Mr. Rhodes responded that DOE/LANL does not core through the Material Disposal
28 Areas when drilling, they go around them or under them.

29
30 Mr. Mayfield asked how many identified Material Disposal Areas are on LANL
31 property.

32
33 Mr. Rhodes responded that there are 26 known or recognized Material Disposal
34 Areas.

35
36 Mr. Schmelling asked if sampling is conducted outside the LANL boundary.

37
38 Mr. Rhodes responded that yes there are a number of samples that are pulled from
39 offsite locations.
40

1 Mr. Martinez asked if LANL was required to have a 3rd party laboratory process the
2 samples.

3
4 Mr. Rhodes responded that in the 90's LANL used to run the samples onsite. He noted
5 that significant comments came back that raised questions on the use of the LABs own
6 analytical laboratories for analyses. He stated that from those concerns an agreement
7 was made that LANL would use 3rd party analytical laboratories to run environmental
8 samples.

9
10 Mr. Schmelling asked about uranium in the groundwater.

11
12 Mr. Rhodes noted that uranium 238 is naturally occurring in the volcanic rock.
13 Additionally, noting that uranium 235 caused by historical spills can be found in LA and
14 Pueblo Canyon sediments. Mr. Rhodes noted that uranium is a surface water
15 contaminant more than a regional aquifer contaminant.

16
17 Mr. Martinez asked what the annual cost of the monitoring runs DOE.

18
19 Mr. Rhodes responded that the budget for the monitoring runs from \$10 - \$13 million.

20
21 Mr. Martinez asked what percentage of that is for sample processing.

22
23 Mr. Rhodes stated that \$5 - \$6 million is used for running samples.

24
25 Mr. Mayfield asked if DOE/LANL had ever discovered cross contamination between
26 the aquifer zones.

27
28 Mr. Rhodes responded yes there have been instances of cross contamination.

29
30 **XI. Public Comment Period**

31 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for public comment at 3:47 p.m.

32
33 Mr. Mike Loya stated that back in 2007, people were complaining about the use of mud
34 rotary drilling at LANL. He noted that at the time the NNCMAB had put forth the idea of
35 using casing advanced drilling. He noted that the cost of casing advanced drilling is four
36 times greater than mud rotary. Mr. Loya noted that U.S. Senator Pete Domenici lobbied for
37 the money that was used to switch to the casing advanced drilling that is now used.

38
39 With no additional public comment Mr. Schmelling closed the public comment period at
40 3:50 p.m.

1 XII. Presentation of Certificates

2 Mr. Schmelling opened the floor for the presentation of certificates to the outgoing
3 student members. He noted that students Deidre Roybal and Savannah Martinez would be
4 leaving the NNMCAB to head to college in the fall.

5
6 Mr. Bishop presented the members with letters of appreciation and recommendation,
7 and additionally certificates of appreciation for their service to the NNMCAB.

8
9 XIII. Adjournment

10 Mr. Schmelling noted that the next NNMCAB Combined Committee Meeting would be
11 held on July 8, 2015 at the NNMCAB office.

12
13 With no additional business to discuss, Mr. Schmelling adjourned the meeting at 3:50
14 p.m.

15
16 **Respectfully Submitted,**

17 **William Alexander**
18 **Technical Programs and Outreach**

19
20 **Attachments:**

- 21 **1. Final Combined Committee Meeting Agenda for 05/13/2015**
- 22 **2. Final Combined Committee Meeting Minutes for 04/08/2015**
- 23 **3. Draft Recommendation 2015-04 "Fiscal Year 2017 Project Prioritization" Author, NNMCAB**
- 24 **4. NNMCAB Board Meeting Flyer**
- 25 **5. Presentation by David Rhodes, DOE Los Alamos, "Groundwater Periodic Monitoring Reports"**
- 26 **6. Letter from NNSA to Public, regarding Final Surplus Plutonium Disposition**

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