



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

July 8, 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 (Co-DDFO)
2. Michael Gardipe, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer (Co-DDFO)
3. David Rhodes, Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office

NNMCAB Members

1. Manuel Pacheco, WM Committee Chair
2. Stephen Schmelling, EM&R Committee Chair
3. Joey Tiano
4. Carlos Valdez
5. Danny Mayfield
6. Joshua Madalena
7. Mona Varela
8. Douglas Sayre
9. Michael Whiting
10. Irene Tse-Pe
11. Angelica Gurulé
12. Gerard Martinez
13. Alex Puglisi

NNMCAB Student Members

1. Alicia Bowyer

NNMCAB Member Excused Absences

1. Nona Girardi
2. Michael Valerio
3. Mary Friday
4. Ashley Sanderson

1 5. Tessa Jo Mascareñas

2 6. Alyssa Schreiber

3

4 **NNMCAB Member Absences**

5 1. Angel Quintana

6 2. Joseph Viarrial

7

8 **NNMCAB 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. Scott Kovac, Nuke Watch New Mexico

15 2. Kaitlin Martinez, Los Alamos National Security

16 3. Brian Clayton, Los Alamos National Security

17 4. Steven Horak, Project Time and Cost, LLC.

18 5. Andrea Romero, Regional Coalition of LANL Communities

19 6. Danny Katzman, Los Alamos National Security

20 7. Tim Goering, Los Alamos National Security

21 8. William Travis Burkett, Los Alamos National Security, Visible Team

22 9. Kelly Michel, Los Alamos National Security, Visible Team

23 ***All NNM CAB meetings are recorded. Audio CD's have been placed on file for review at the NNM CAB**
24 **office, 94 Cities of Gold Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87506. The written minutes are intended as a**
25 **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 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 2:01 p.m. Mr. Bishop recognized Mr. Manuel
8 Pacheco, WM Committee Chair, Mr. Pacheco 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 11 members were present. Mr. Puglisi arrived at 2:20 p.m. and Mr.
15 Martinez arrived at 2:25 p.m.

16 **b. Excused Absences**

17 Mr. Alexander recorded that the following members had an excused absence:
18 Ms. Mary Friday, Ms. Tessa Jo Mascareñas, Mr. Michael Valerio, Dr. Nona Girardi,
19 and Ms. Ashley Sanderson.

20 **c. Absences**

21 Mr. Alexander recorded that the following members were absent: Mr. Joseph
22 Viarrial and Ms. Angel Quintana.

23 **III. Approval of Agenda**

24 The Combined Committee (CC) reviewed the Agenda for the July 8, 2015 meeting. Mr.
25 Pacheco opened the floor for comments.

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

28 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

29 Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for discussion on the minutes from the May 13, 2015 CC
30 meeting.

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

34 **V. Introductions**

35 Mr. Pacheco asked for introductions from the board members and all attending guests.
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1 **VI. Old Business**

2 Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for discussion on old business.

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4 Mr. Sayre stated that a draft recommendation for possible consideration at the EM SSAB
5 Meeting in September would be sent out to the members for review in the next few days.
6 Additionally, he noted that the recommendation was in regards to Supplemental
7 Environmental Projects.

8 Mr. Sayre stated that the date for the upcoming NNMCAB Board meeting was July 29,
9 2015, at the Sagebrush Conference Center in Taos. He also noted that a possible tour of TA-
10 16 was being considered.

11
12 With no additional old business to discuss, Mr. Pacheco moved on to the next agenda
13 item.

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15 **VII. New Business**

16 **a. Public Comment Chromium Plume**

17 Mr. Pacheco asked Mr. Bishop or Mr. Rhodes if they would provide information on
18 this topic.

19
20 Mr. Rhodes stated that DOE was required to announce that it was going to be
21 publishing an Environmental Assessment (EA). He noted that DOE has submitted that
22 notification and at this time it is not DOE's intent to have a public meeting to discuss the
23 Chromium EA. Additionally, he stated that DOE has submitted the work plan to the New
24 Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for review and approval. Mr. Rhodes stated
25 that he did not have the specific date that the EA would be published.

26
27 Mr. Schmelling asked if the 30 day comment period would start immediately after the
28 EA was published.

29
30 Mr. Rhodes stated that yes the 30 day period would start after the publication.

31
32 **b. Restaurant Recommendation Guide**

33 Mr. Pacheco stated that the members would be providing information on their
34 favorite restaurants in Santa Fe. He noted that this information would be used to
35 compile a list of restaurants, to provide information to the Advisory Board Members
36 from across the DOE complex that would be in New Mexico this September for the EM
37 SSAB meeting.

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39 **c. TA-16 Tour in lieu of August Committee Meeting**

40 Mr. Pacheco stated that in the Executive Committee meeting it had been suggested
41 that the NNMCAB have a Tour of TA-16 in lieu of the August Committee Meeting.

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43 Mr. Bishop noted that the committee would be hearing a briefing today on the Royal
44 Demolition Explosive (RDX) plume at TA-16. He stated that the Tour of TA-16 would give
45 the members additional information on the RDX plume and ongoing efforts to
46 characterize and remediate the plume.

1 The members voted in favor of having a Tour of TA-16 in lieu of an August 12, 2015 CC
2 meeting.

3
4 **VIII. Update from DDFO**

5 Due to time constraints Mr. Bishop stated that he would keep the DDFO update short.
6 He noted that at the July 29, 2015 meeting DOE is hoping to announce the new Manager for
7 the EM-LA Field Office.

8
9 **IX. Presentations**

10 **a. LANL Visible Team**

11 Ms. Kelly Michel, Los Alamos National Security, Director LANL Visible Team, presented
12 on “Virtual Simulation at Los Alamos National Laboratory.” She noted that the purpose
13 of the LANL Visible team is to leverage the technology growth from the commercial
14 realm and movies for use in LANL modeling. Ms. Michel gave an overview of what the
15 team has done to create virtual reality simulations for: training, modeling, virtual tours,
16 and site interactions. She noted that the idea is to leverage natural human responses
17 and integrate the visual learning process.

18
19 **b. Questions**

20 Mr. Schmelling asked if photographs are used to generate the virtual space.

21
22 Ms. Michel responded that yes the compositors are artist trained, and that they do
23 use photographs to produce the virtual images.

24
25 Ms. Gurulé asked what the production time is on one of these types of virtual
26 simulations.

27
28 Ms. Michel responded that it can be accomplished in as little as six weeks.

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30 **c. TA-16 RDX**

31 Mr. Tim Goering, Los Alamos National Security, gave a presentation entitled “RDX in
32 Groundwater Overview.” An electronic copy of the presentation may be obtained from
33 the NNMCAB website; [http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-](http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm)
34 [presentations/presentations.htm](http://www.nnmcab.energy.gov/7-presentations/presentations.htm).

35
36 **d. Questions**

37 Mr. Schmelling asked if the RDX is in the regional aquifer.

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39 Mr. Goering stated that there are a couple of wells that are showing levels of RDX in
40 the regional aquifer.

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42 Mr. Schmelling asked if the contamination pathway was simpler or the same
43 complexity as the chromium.

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45 Mr. Katzman responded that the RDX is very close to where the contamination
46 occurred and there has been little outward migration.

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Mr. Martinez asked what the risk based level is.

Mr. Goering responded that the level for RDX is 7 parts per billion.

Mr. Martinez asked what the Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) could handle before it would need to be replaced.

Mr. Goering responded that the 2011 Las Conchas fire had damaged the flow dynamics and caused extensive damage to the PRB.

Ms. Gurulé asked if springs were showing contamination.

Mr. Goering responded that the springs were showing some contamination. Additionally, noting that one of the springs has dried up over the last 4 years and is no longer flowing and the other springs have very low flow rates.

Ms. Gurulé asked what the effect of the contamination is on fish and wildlife.

Mr. Katzman responded that all of the water sheds have been investigated from an ecological stand point. He stated that for the Water Canyon report the ecology had been assessed and completed and no adverse effects had been found.

Mr. Puglisi asked if the springs had dried out due to the outfall being shut down.

Mr. Goering responded that the swish spring had dried out and that it was a possibility that was due to the new zero discharge outfall policy.

Ms. Gurulé asked if R-18 and R-16 were ground water production wells.

Mr. Goering responded that they are in the regional aquifer; however they are not water production wells.

Mr. Valdez asked if NMED had provided any recommendations on the RDX plume.

Mr. Goering stated that in their Notice of Disapproval for the 2007 Corrective Measures Evaluation, NMED had stated that more information was needed on the conceptual model. Additionally, NMED requested a Supplemental Investigation Work plan.

Mr. Schmelling asked what the long term objective was, containment or cleanup.

Mr. Goering responded that it is technically unfeasible to clean it up completely. He noted that the lab is working to protect the regional aquifer.

Mr. Katzman stated that the Lab with the assistance of NMED is trying to figure out what the long term solution should be.

1 Mr. Pacheco asked when it becomes technically infeasible.
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3 Mr. Goering responded when it is no longer a cost effective use of resources, or when
4 the amount of contaminant removed with the tools available do not provide the ability
5 to clean up the contaminant.
6

7 Mr. Whiting asked if the contaminated springs are completely fenced off, or if wildlife
8 can access them.
9

10 Mr. Katzman responded that the springs are not fenced in and that the wildlife can
11 access them.
12

13 **X. Public Comment Period**

14 Mr. Pacheco opened the floor for public comment at 3:47 p.m.; he asked Mr. Scott
15 Kovac of Nuke Watch New Mexico if he would like to address the board.
16

17 Mr. Kovac thanked the board for the opportunity to speak. He stated that he was happy
18 about the new EM-LA field office being set up. He noted that he would like to remind the
19 NNM CAB that EM-LA is here to provide oversight of the LANS contractor. He noted that he
20 believed that it was a different budget and that the NNM CAB should consider in its budget
21 recommendation a request for more funding, it should also request the appropriate amount
22 of staff for the new office. Mr. Kovac noted that now is the time since it's a new operation,
23 since it is easy to lose the staff later. We need to make sure that EM-LA has all the staff it
24 needs to complete the job.

25 Mr. Kovac asked if it was possible for members of the public to attend the TA-16 RDX
26 tour.
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28 Mr. Bishop responded that the NNM CAB tours are open to the public to the extent
29 possible.
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31 With no additional public comment, Mr. Pacheco closed the public comment period at
32 3:50 p.m.
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34 **XI. Adjournment**

35 Mr. Pacheco noted that the next NNM CAB CC Meeting would be held on October 14,
36 2015 at the NNM CAB office.
37

38 With no additional business to discuss, Mr. Pacheco adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.
39

40 **Respectfully Submitted,**

41 **William Alexander**
42 **Technical Programs and Outreach**
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44 **Attachments:**

- 45 1. Final Combined Committee Meeting Agenda for 07/08/2015
- 46 2. Final Combined Committee Meeting Minutes for 05/13/2015

- 1 **3. Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Draft Community Relations**
- 2 **Plan Comment Suggestion Form**
- 3 **4. Presentation by Tim Goering, LANL, "RDX in Groundwater Overview"**

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