

MEETING MINUTES

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board to the Department of Energy/Los Alamos National Laboratory

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

PARTICIPANTS:

Citizens' Advisory Board Members:

Bernadette Chavira-Merriman, Co-Chair
Dr. Antonio Delgado, Co-Chair
Sarah Atencio
Robert Castille
Hank L. Daneman, PE
Lorenzo Valdez
Glenn Lockhart
Loyda Martinez
Dolores Salazar
Manuel Trujillo
Carl Tsosie
Karen Young

Members Not Attending:

Orlando Arellano
Nick Salazar
Corrine Sanchez
Michael Terrill
Elmer Torres

Ex-Officio Members:

Herman Le-Doux, DOE, Designated
Federal Officer
Tom Baca, LANL
Benito Garcia, NMED

Ex-Officio Members Not Attending:

Barbara Driscoll, EPA

DOE Staff:

Greg Sald, Office of Public Affairs, Los Alamos Area Office

Los Alamos National Laboratory Staff:

Leroy Apodaca, Community Involvement & Outreach
Linda Anderman, Community Involvement & Outreach

Support Staff:

Lisa Roybal, SCIENTECH, Inc.

The Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB) to the Department of Energy/Los Alamos National Laboratory met at the Senior Stroke Center, Española, New Mexico on December 12, 1995. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Bernadette Chavira-Merriman at 6:45 p.m. with 12 voting CAB members present. This constituted a quorum. The agenda was

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NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD
to the
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY/LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL
LABORATORY

Tentative Agenda

January 9, 1996

95 JAN -8 PM 3:04

ROSA PEREZ

Meeting Place: Helping Hands, 1/4 of a mile South of Allsups on the East side of Highway 518 (this is the main road) in Mora

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Public Comments

7:30 pm - 7:45 pm Break

7:45 pm - 9:30 pm Business

I. Call to Order - Roll Call

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes

II. Public Comments

III. Old Business

1. Discussion of Specific Issues Sub-Committees

A. Environmental Protection

B. Science Education

C. Technology Transfer

D. Renewable Energy

IV. New Business

1. DOE/LANL Monthly Reports

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Individual Issues

B. Operational Procedures/By-Laws

3. Discussion of February 13 Agenda

V. Adjournment

0823
General

Mr. Lockhart made a motion for approval of this FY 1996 Budget and submission to DOE. Mr. Le-Doux stated that with this approval and submission to DOE, the CAB has the flexibility to shift money between the line items as long as the CAB does not exceed the bottom line number of \$200K. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Co-Chair Antonio Delgado reminded all CAB members that this CAB is driven largely by the ability and the commitment of the subcommittees to meet and produce recommendations to the CAB as a whole. The subcommittees should be meeting regularly and be prepared to give presentations at the CAB meetings.

Mr. Lockhart suggested that the amendment to the Mission Statement and Operating Procedures be approved so a working session for the CAB can be scheduled.

Herman Le-Doux stated that any time the CAB meets formally, it has to be an open meeting to the public. If it is intended for this CAB to have working sessions for presentations, brainstorming, and receiving education on certain issues, without any formal decisions being made, these working sessions should be announced as informational sessions inviting the public to attend.

Carl Tesosie suggested that these working session should consist of a full day and may be held on a Saturday to educate members and bring them up to speed on issues within the CAB as well as DOE and LANL. This would allow the limited time at the regular CAB meetings to be used for making decisions that are appropriate.

Consensus was reached that the CAB should hold working sessions, however, there was not a motion made or a vote taken for the approval of the Mission Statement and Operating Procedures.

4. This meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Chavira-Merriman at 9:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: 6:30 PM, Tuesday, January 6, 1996, in Mora at the Helping Hands Community Center.

Certification:

These minutes are an accurate and complete summary of the matters discussed and conclusions reached at the December 12, 1995 meeting of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board to the Department of Energy/Los Alamos National Laboratory which met at the Senior Stroke Center, Española, New Mexico.

Certified by:

Bernadette Chavira-Merriman, Co-Chair

Date

Herman Le-Doux stated that it is DOE's intent to address these Tiger Team Findings in a public manner.

Co-Chair Chavira-Merriman stated that this issue will be further addressed in a working session of the CAB.

Hank Daneman submitted to CAB members, a report that was developed last year by the General Accounting Office regarding the difficulties in coordinating activities under two agencies involved in oversight of nuclear cleanup.

3. **Richard Deyo, Santa Fe** - Mr. Deyo handed out a an updated version of his quiz that he handed out at the 11/14/95 CAB Meeting. Mr. Deyo sated that LANL and the government are still fighting Word War II and that they are stone drunk from power.

Old Business

1. **Herman Le-Doux** reported on board member terms. He informed the CAB that the appointment letters which came from Thomas Grumbly, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management in Washington DC., stated that all CAB members had two year terms. This letter did not recognize the fact that the Formation Committee had already set term limits when the nomination package was submitted to DC. The direction that came from Mr. Grumbly's office is that the terms which the Formation Committee set for each CAB member stands. This list of terms is attached.

A motion was made and seconded that the CAB accept the September 12, 1995 date as the official start date for CAB member terms. This motion was passed unanimously.

2. **Glenn Lockhart** suggested that the CAB approve the proposed budget and the proposed changes to the Mission Statement and Operating Procedures.

Mr. Lockhart stated that the CAB received a bottom line number of \$200K for its FY 1996 Budget and with this new number the budget was revised as appropriate. This budget needs to be approved by the CAB and submitted to DOE as soon as possible. **Herman Le-Doux** stated that DOE concurs with the proposed budget and stated that this CAB has the flexibility to move dollars around as the year goes by.

Mr. Lockhart stated that there is a revision scheduled in April 1996 for the CAB to work on the CAB budget for the next three year including revising the 1996 Budget. **Mr. Lockhart** next gave an overview of the present FY 1996 Budget.

Co-Chair Delgado stated that this issue should be delegated to the PP/E Subcommittee to draft a detailed report and recommendation on NEWNET.

Mr. Lockhart stated that these presentations are very insightful, however, they should be presented to working sessions so that this CAB can take action and get public input at the CAB meetings. These educational presentations should be addressed at working sessions.

Co-Chair Chavira-Merriman stated that the NEWNET issue will be taken up by the PP/E Subcommittee with a full report to the CAB as it arrives at a recommendation. Educational presentations will be given to the CAB at working sessions rather than the public meetings.

Public Comments:

1. Karla Kuyaca, 284 Ojo De La Yaca, Santa Fe, - Ms. Kuyaca handed out written comments to the CAB and stated that she is alarmed at how superficially the DOE grant issue was dealt with. Ms. Kuyaca stated that the PP/E Subcommittee that dealt with this issue, represents this CAB as a whole and the way this CAB does business. She is displeased with the result of the report that she heard at the last CAB meeting regarding the DOE grant and feels that the author of the grant was misrepresented and brushed off. Ms. Kuyaca stated that there was no communication with the Subcommittee at the meeting she attended and she felt intimidated. Ms. Kuyaca suggested that the CAB hold another PP/E Subcommittee meeting on this matter to see if this is how the CAB as a whole wants to handle issues. Ms. Kuyaca's written comments are attached.

Robert Castille stated that the CAB has trust in the subcommittee and the report given at the 11/14/95 CAB meeting was not a dissenting opinion, but one of unanimous decision. Therefore Mr. Castille suggested that this CAB should not take up this issue again.

Co-Chair Chavira-Merriman stated that the purpose of the CAB is to be open to citizens' input in an orderly fashion and she appreciated that Ms. Kuyaca came forward and that the subcommittees will be directed to respectfully receive information and have dissenting opinions when appropriate.

2. Chris Mechels, Rt. 4 Box 2-B, Santa Fe - Mr. Mechels handed out some documents on what has happened to some of the Tiger Team Findings. He stated that the Tiger Team was a unique event at Los Alamos. Mr. Mechels also stated that he would like to see the process which addresses these Tiger Team Findings be open to the public. He would like for this CAB to get involved with the responses to the Tiger Team Findings.

interrelationship with the conduct of science. This is a national system, therefore, the communities surrounding LANL can see what issues are faced in other communities in the U.S. The following are responses to concerns that were brought up by CAB members:

- Training of the station managers for the monitors in New Mexico is done by LANL, but nation-wide, there is a formalized training regiment. They pull together all station managers once a year for training and information exchange.
- Right now there is not a program set up to monitor streams and rivers this same way, however, this idea is in LANL's plans.
- There are multiple ways that NEWNET is increasing the public awareness of radiation. One way is that LANL has been working with Highlands University as well as DOE, to build a curriculum which utilizes NEWNET to provide a platform for science education with a focus on radiation. LANL has also been working with a few station managers, who are high school teachers and high school students, to incorporate science education into their curriculum.
- Last year LANL received funds to put up Environmental teller machines, a stand alone system that can be put in public locations, where a person can key in a code and obtain information with an audio/visual display. There are four or five of these Environmental teller machines located around LANL. They have not been introduced to the public yet due to lack of funds and software development.
- This particular LANL office will be more than willing, along with the Community Involvement and Outreach office, to partner with the CAB in setting up workshops for public education.
- Due to the lack of funds there is only one monitoring station in Santa Fe. NMED worked with the community, along with a special committee, to decide where to put this station. This station is located at Santa Fe Preparatory school.
- NEWNET is in a developing stage, and although this is a nationally oriented program, up to this point in time, it has been locally oriented. This program is seeking national funds as well as funds in other areas.

Herman Le-Doux suggested that the Subcommittee on Public Participation/Education (PP/E) look at the amount of information that the community has and come up with some advice to DOE on what LANL should provide to help increase the educational level in these areas. The CAB, through the PP/E Subcommittee, could also provide DOE with advice on the level of support for NEWNET stations for Los Alamos and surrounding communities. DOE is in the process of trying to identify support, whether it be to maintain the current stations or expand the program. Funding has not yet been determined.

- NEPA requires Federal Agencies to analyze the impacts to the environment of the actions that they are proposing to take. The law states that the agency that wants to take the action must do the analysis so that they understand the impacts of the various alternatives. An EIS itself does not make the decision for the Federal Agencies; it analyzes options and environmental impacts of those options. These options are presented to the decision maker, in this case, the Secretary of Energy; given the environmental impacts and other information that they have access to, they make a decision and that decision goes into the Record of Decision. The Record of Decision is prepared at least 30 days after Final EIS availability. The law requires DOE to analyze the impacts of the proposed actions; it doesn't mean that DOE must take a specific action.
- Once the Draft EIS is released for public comment, DOE will hold public hearings for different aspects of the EIS and accept public comments until the Final EIS is complete. This document is not intended to be a technical document; it will be understandable to the people who are expected to read it. This document will be approximately 300 hundred pages not including the appendices and all will be available to the public.
- This document will look at the effect on the environment in the future.
- Other than data from LANL, DOE is will use data for this document from NMED, EPA, the Forest Service and other organizations.
- This EIS will not be determining what factors or what regulations should be followed with the remediation of sites at LANL. This EIS looks solely at how a decision will impact the environment. The remediation standards are based upon regulatory drivers that comply with what NMED and EPA determines. These regulatory drivers can be available to this CAB.

Co-Chair Chavira-Merriman concluded this presentation by stating that this CAB would like to receive status reports on the EIS and would like to have Mr. Cruz back to a CAB Subcommittee at a later date.

2. **Jacob Perea, Los Alamos National Laboratory** - Mr. Perea gave a brief presentation on the Neighborhood Environmental Watch Network (NEWNET) and handed out a copy of his presentation slides. NEWNET is a National Remote Monitoring and Data Dissemination System that sets up sensor platforms (air monitors) that are publicly controlled. These sensor platforms are at 5 different locations throughout northern New Mexico and have station managers who are members of the public; they are not DOE or LANL employees. These air monitors collect radiation and meteorological data which are transmitted to LANL via satellite communications and can be accessed by the public through Internet. The purpose of NEWNET is to increase public awareness of risk assessments and radiation issues and to establish a national educational program to build the public's understanding of the environment, specifically, nuclear radiation issues and their

unanimously approved. Glenn Lockhart submitted typographical error changes to the minutes of the November 14 meeting and with these changes noted, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentations:

1. **Cory Cruz, DOE/Albuquerque Operations Office** - Mr. Cruz is the Project Manager for the Los Alamos National Laboratory Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (LANL SWEIS) that is currently being drafted by DOE and an independent contractor, GRAM Inc. He handed out a copy of his presentation slides and gave a brief presentation on the LANL SWEIS. Mr. Cruz stated that the purpose for this document is to describe the current environment, operations and hazards at LANL along with comparing the environmental effects of operational alternatives at LANL. This document will also provide the necessary project-level National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses for selected proposed projects and serve as a top-level tiering document for future NEPA reviews at LANL. This document will be out for public review as the Draft EIS by the end of April 1996 and the Final EIS should be completed by the end of December 1996. The following are responses to concerns that were brought up by CAB members:

- Nevada, Lawrence Livermore, Idaho, and Pantex are some of the other sites where DOE is currently, or has already done SWEIS.
- This SWEIS is DOE's way of complying with and implementing NEPA policies.
- The total cost for the SWEIS is \$21M, \$13.6M of which has gone to the contractor, Gram, Inc. who will work with DOE on preparing this document for the next two years. The rest of these funds will be used in gathering and providing information for the completion of this document and incidentals that will arise. Some of these funds will come out of the indirect funds from LANL.
- Gram, Inc. is the lead writer of this EIS document. They have several people within their company who will be writing different sections of the EIS along with help from DOE and LANL.
- The last SWEIS was done in 1979 and from that SWEIS and other reports produced yearly, the writers will get some of their information. However, the \$21M allocated for this project will be used for producing new information on how LANL will affect the environment for the next 5 to 10 years.
- The Draft EIS will be made available for public review in April 1996. DOE will be more than willing to give status and progress reports on the Draft EIS to this CAB or its subcommittees.