

NORTHERN NEW MEXICO CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD
to the
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
on the
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
1002 North Oñate Street
Española, New Mexico 87532
505-753-8970

1171
General

Work Session
March 11, 1997

NNMCAB Members Present:

Carlotta McInteer
Orlando Arellano
Loyda Martinez
Chuck Montañó
Bernadette Chavira-Merriman
Kathy Sanchez

Staff Support:

Ann DuBois, Scientech, Inc.
Carmen M. Rodriguez, LANL
Greg Sahd, DOE/LAAO
Jorg Jansen, LANL ER Project Leader
Ted Taylor, DOE/LAAO

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Tom Todd, DOE/LAAO
Herman Le-Doux, DOE/LAAO
Benito Garcia, NMED

The work session began at 6:50 P.M.. Herman Le-Doux made a report about the NNMCAB recommendations. There is no response yet to the recommendation concerning adding a NNMCAB member to the Search Committee for the new LANL Director. Tom Todd talked about the positive impact of the NNMCAB on the University of California contract negotiations. Future oversight by the LAAO staff will be based on contract performance. He said that it is not possible to add parties to the University of California contract negotiations who will not be signatories to the final contract. A response from Tom Todd on University of California contract questions was distributed and discussed.

The Board requested that a conversation be held concerning the DOE/NNMCAB partnership. It will be decided later if we need a special meeting or take time during our regular meeting. Ann DuBois was asked to schedule the meeting. It was requested that the results of the 120 Study be added to this discussion.

Public Comment

Frances Tyson, Route 1, Box 373, Las Vegas, NM 87701

Mrs. Tyson read a written statement. She expressed concern about the WIPP shipments. She encouraged the use hydrogen fuel cells for energy.



Chris Mechels, Route 4, Box 2-B, Santa Fe, NM 87501

Mr. Mechels discussed the recent Inspector General's report on LANL. Some of the same findings have been in the GAO Reports. He maintained that the DOE Contract Reform process was not being followed in the current University of California contract negotiations. He is concerned about the environmental damage, health and safety issues at LANL. Employees need to speak out without being concerned about being fired. He said that the online incident reports have stopped by Jim Jackson. He added that the California Open Records Act should be followed by LANL by their own agreement. He was concerned that the LANL Human Resources Director was hired under a job waiver but LANL won't release the waiver which should be a public document.

End of Public Comment

Ken Silver from the Boston University School of Public Health made a presentation on Boston University's contribution to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Public Health Assessment at LANL. He talked about the differences between risk assessment and the public health approach. Risk assessment has no place for human values which are included in the Public Health Assessment. The differences are described from a paper by Dr. Tom Burke of John Hopkins University:

Goal: The Protection of Public Health

	Risk Assessment	Public Health Approach
Driver	Single Hazard	Population health impact
Approach	Pollutant specific	Population based
Process	Hazard ID	Assessment
	Dose response	Policy development
	Exposure assessment	Assurance
	Risk characterization	
	Risk management	
Health endpoint	Limited (cancer)	Diverse/multiple
Tools	Toxicology, modeling	Epidemiology/surveillance
Agencies	Federal/state	Local/community
Outputs	Standards, regulations	Intervention strategies
Actions	Permitting, enforcement	Outreach, screening, treatment
	monitoring	
Solution	High tech/pollutant specific	Low tech/broad based
Public values	No mechanism for inclusion	Essential component of intervention strategy
Decision making	Top down	Bottom up
Success	Regulatory compliance	Community health improvement

The role of Boston University in the ATSDR public health assessment involves:

1. Health Outcomes
2. Community Concerns
3. Historical emissions

The overall approach to analyzing health outcomes involves:

Cancer

NMTR cancer incidence, 1970-present
NCI cancer mortality, 1950-present
Health surveys

Birth Outcomes

NMHD Selected Health Statistics, early 1970's - present
Vital Statistics on the United States, 1945 - present
NMHD congenital hypothyroidism, 1980-present
Health Surveys

Other Non-cancer

Health surveys

Community Concerns include community diagnosis by using key informants and documentation to address those concerns. Boston University is focussing on: Radioiodine hypothesis: 1963 - present; Plutonium stack discharges: 1950 - 1974; and Accident, incidents, occurrences with detailed chronological listing.

By using time trends and birth outcomes, it was discovered that in the late 1980's, there were elevated rates of prenatal mortality in Los Alamos County. In the 1960's, there were four deaths due to female brain cancer which was highly statistically significant. Los Alamos has documented thyroid cancers which are four times the national average. Boston University has been investigating potential sources of radioiodine.

The Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board is a repository of the public health memory. Boston University has spent 2 1/2 years of work on this study. Boston University is looking very closely at fission products at the Omega West Reactor. Boston University is having difficulty getting the necessary documents to complete the study. They have data about the Plutonium Stack Discharges at TA-21 in the early 1970s. There is some evidence indicating a rise in air emissions from TA-21 in the months after the 1969 Rocky Flats fire, consistent with official AEC correspondence of the era which describes possible use of Los Alamos for production-related work to make up for fire-damaged processes at Rocky Flats. Some room monitoring data in 1969 show high alpha radiation levels. The stack monitoring reports for TA-21 are hard to get and some LANL retirees are helping to interpret the data.

The Boston University study is not doing the following activities: 1) dose reconstruction, 2) analytical epidemiology at the individual level, 3) quantitative risk assessment, or 4) examination of water pathways.

Ken said that he needs information about:

When were charcoal filters installed at the Omega Reactor?

When did radioisotope production begin at the Omega Reactor?

When were the LAMPRE and MPBE fuel failures?

When in the 1970s did the LAMPF Beam Stop radioiodine production?

Does anyone know about the sampling locations at TA-21?

What were the eras of pit production and increases in activity at TA-21?

Stu Dinwiddie, RCRA Permits Manager for the New Mexico Environment Department made the next presentation. He created a data base for 250 spreadsheet pages on release sites. He looked at the historical records on 3044 potential release sites. Of these sites, 1224 are now being investigated and there are 598 nonregulated sites. He is now setting the clean up priorities for the state. The Los Alamos environmental restoration budget has been cut by 2/3. NMED needs help from the public and NNM CAB to support funding for clean up. Public comment is needed as input for the LANL permits which are being reviewed now and in the near future. The total budget is \$1.2 billion for LANL environmental restoration. The commitment for clean up was short lived and some of the money was not spent for environmental restoration. Congress appropriated limited funds for clean up. At other sites, the Citizen Advisory Boards lobbied for increased environmental restoration funds. The effect of this support for other sites' budgets was to take environmental restoration funds from Los Alamos. The state and federal governments need constituency support for clean up budgets and comments on permits.

The state has no jurisdiction over emissions. A recent New Mexican newspaper article mentioned the three TRU drums going to Los Alamos. The State has no jurisdiction over these shipments because they were totally TRU waste and not mixed waste. The EPA has jurisdiction over the Clean Air Act. Public Notice Permit modifications say that LANL cannot take any waste offsite.

The state must respond in writing to public comments on permit modifications. The Board could make comments on permit modifications. In order to share documents on releases which affect the ground water, the state needs access to the Pueblos as the state has no jurisdiction over sovereign land. The Board could comment to DOE regarding what is the most important thing to clean up first and address the state's and the DOE's priorities. Stu and NMED have been available and will continue to meet with the Board and the Environmental Restoration/Waste Management committee.

Agenda for the April 8 meeting:

Planning items left over from the March 11 meeting

Discuss the partnership relationship with DOE

Tom Todd and Herman Le-Doux will be present for this meeting. Loyda Martinez will chair the meeting

The work session adjourned at 9:25 P.M..