

General

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
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Monitoring and Surveillance Committee Minutes
June 14, 2000

Committee Members Present: Anthony Armijo, Chair; Hank Daneman; Janet Gerwin
Resource Person: Gene Turner, DOE/LAAO
Staff: Ann DuBois, PWT

Mr. Armijo opened the meeting. Ann DuBois reported that Albes Gaona of the All Indian Pueblo Council had resigned from the Committee due to a change in job assignment.

Hank Daneman asked if a quorum were present for this meeting. Mr. Armijo quoted a section from the NNM CAB Bylaws "V. BOARD STRUCTURE, D. Structure of Committees and Task Forces: 7. Any Committee may include non-Board members. The members of the public must be equal to or less than the number of Board members. However, non-Board members cannot vote or hold Committee leadership positions." Mr. Armijo said that that the Committee had two voting members present and that constituted a quorum of three Committee members. Mr. Augustin Garcia was not present at this meeting. Mr. Daneman responded that he would be issuing a complaint because he felt that Mr. Armijo was blocking his proposed recommendation on the Santa Fe water supply and that if he cannot vote, he would not serve on the committee. Mr. Daneman chose to leave the meeting at this point.

Mr. Armijo explained that he was not blocking Mr. Daneman's recommendation. Mr. Armijo described the following historical sequence. Mr. Daneman introduced his proposed recommendation at the March Committee meeting. The Committee passed the recommendation at this Committee meeting and Mr. Armijo was prepared to discuss the recommendation at the March Board meeting. At the March Committee meeting, Mr. Armijo invited Mr. Daneman to present in March his concerns to the Annual Meeting of the External Advisory Group for the Hydrogeologic Workplan at Ghost Ranch. Mr. Daneman did not attend the External Advisory Group for the Hydrogeologic Workplan meeting. The March Board meeting was canceled due to snow. The Committee realized that with the added time, the Committee could do more research. The Chair invited Amy Lewis, Sangre de Cristo Water Company to the April Committee meeting. At the April Committee meeting, the Committee heard a presentation from Amy Lewis, Sangre de Cristo Water Company and modified the recommendation based on the information provided by Ms. Lewis. At the April Board meeting, the discussion was focused on a topic that precluded Committee reports. The May Committee meeting was canceled due to the Cerro Grande fire. Mr. Armijo introduced the proposed recommendation at the



May Board meeting. The Chair, Menice S. Manzanares, ruled that the proposed recommendation could not be discussed because the Board meeting was already past 9:00 p.m. According to the Federal Register Notice, the Board must adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Armijo distributed the proposed recommendation and asked that it be considered at the June 28 Board meeting. Mr. Armijo met with Mr. Daneman on June 12 to further refine the proposed recommendation.

Mr. Turner pointed out that the intent of Mr. Daneman's proposed recommendation is covered in the implementation of LANL's Hydrogeological Workplan. Mr. Armijo reported that Mr. Daneman's concerns are 1) the plutonium that was found a few years ago in Cochiti Lake, 2) the desirability of an independent review of the possible migration of legacy wastes. Mr. Daneman wants an independent contractor like Mr. John Till who was hired by Rocky Flats to do an audit. Mr. Daneman is concerned that legacy wastes could migrate down gradient, contaminate the Rio Grande River, possibly the existing Santa Fe production wells and possibly the new wells and galleys that the City of Santa Fe plans to install and 3) this independent study would be used to select the appropriate points to place the monitoring wells. Mr. Armijo promised that before the June 28 Board meeting, he would review at the proposed recommendation; the Mission of the State Engineer's Office; the draft letter from Amy Lewis, Sangre de Cristo Water Company and LANL's Hydrogeologic Workplan and see if there were any outstanding issues that the Board should address.

Ms. Gerwin and Mr. Turner said that the DOE Oversight Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department and the Pueblos received funding from the DOE to provide this independent perspective. Mr. Turner conveyed that the possibility of flooding after the Cerro Grande fire might increase the funding for the Pueblos, particularly to San Ildefonso, to independently monitor the fate and transport of sediments. Other funding may become available to characterize the Los Alamos and Pueblo canyons. Split sampling will be done with LANL and NMED. Ms. Gerwin said that she trusts the NMED to be objective and raise questions about the sampling data when necessary. Mr. Turner agreed that NMED writes LANL's permits and drives the implementation of the Hydrogeologic Workplan.

Ms. Gerwin described the State Engineer's role for the City and County of Santa Fe is to allocate water and distribute water rights within the state so that New Mexico can deliver water to Texas according the contracts and then to Juarez according to an International Compact. The role suggested for the State Engineer in Mr. Daneman's proposed recommendation is not consistent with the authority of the State Engineer's Office.

Ms. Gerwin reported that she asked NMED about whether they sampled the ground water springs. NMED responded that these springs are sampled and analyzed each year. Ms. Gerwin said that the water in these springs is 500 to 1000 years old. We don't yet know the source of this water. The purpose of the Hydrogeologic Workplan is to discover the connections between the various water sources.

Ms. Gerwin said that she was not so worried about the contamination in LANL's canyons. If flooding occurs, the contamination will also be greatly diluted. She heard a presentation by John Bartlitt with the New Mexicans for Clear Air and Water. He said that LANL's experiments used only small quantities of radioactive materials. When LANL employees milled explosives then materials were used in larger quantities. NMED found two hits of strontium 90 in the Guaje wells.

Ms. Gerwin reported on the Pajarito Plateau Watershed meetings that she has attended and represented the Board. This group is seeing to expand its purpose in light of the devastation of the Cerro Grande fire.

Ms. Gerwin discussed the role and function of the Water Quality Control Commission. This Commission includes all the parties that have an interest in water quality. LANL is a part of this Commission. Ms. Gerwin was concerned that LANL's lawyer, Richard L. Virtue, signed a document to be introduced as legislation during the 2001 State Legislature session. This document proposes to restrict public access to comment and participate in the decision making process during the Tri-Annual Review. This document is now in the public comment period. Ms. Gerwin reported that New Mexicans for Clean Air and Water are also concerned that LANL is a party to this document. Other conservation groups are working to modify this provision. She suggested that the Board might remind the Department that it is good for the public to participate and that the Department should encourage LANL not to be a party to this document. Don Nieper, a member of the Governor's Task Force on Water might be a good resource person for a presentation to the Board. Perhaps this report could be made at the July 26 Board meeting as background to a recommendation. Ms. Gerwin offered to give a report to Mr. Armijo on this topic by June 19.

Mr. Armijo reported that he would represent the Board at the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research meeting in Washington, D.C. from June 21 to June 25. The conference will focus on water quality issues at DOE sites.

Mr. Turner reported that the R-well drilling schedule is coming along. Well R-19 is finished. The contractor is currently back filling the well. The Westbae system will be installed on July 5 on the R-25 well. Then Westbae systems will be installed in the rest of the wells. Defense-Program-funded Well R-7 was started but completion will be deferred to FY2001 due the Cerro Grande fire. LANL did not want contractors working in the canyon due to possible flooding. The flood danger could last between two to five years. The drilling program will focus on wells on the mesas rather than in the canyons. The drilling rigs were withdrawn to the Field Support facility to protect them from the fire. Work was stopped for a month. Well R-22 may be traded for well R-7 and so started sooner. The Defense Program paid for the completed well R-31.

ACTIONS

1. By June 28, Mr. Armijo promised that he would review at the proposed water quality recommendation; the Mission of the State Engineer's Office; the draft

letter from Amy Lewis, Sangre de Cristo Water Company and LANL's Hydrogeologic Workplan and see if there were any outstanding issues that the Board needed to address.

2. By June 19, Ms. Gerwin will give a report to Mr. Armijo on the Water Quality Control Commission document.

Proposed Recommendation from Waste Management Committee

At the June 19 Committee meeting, the Committee passed the following recommendation for consideration of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Board at its meeting on June 28, 2000.

The Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board has become increasingly aware of the hazard posed to White Rock from potential contamination released from TA-54 as a result of fire or other catastrophes, as demonstrated by the decision to evacuate White Rock during the Cerro Grande Fire.

Therefore, the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board recommends that the Department of Energy accelerate the schedule for shipments to WIPP from the current projected completion date of 2015 to 2008 to eliminate the above ground storage of legacy TRU waste and to minimize the above ground storage of new waste.

Monthly Report
June 2000
Ann DuBois

Annual Report

Worked on second draft of report

Budget

Updated budget reports. Reconciled accounts with DOE/LAAO Business Office.

Community Outreach Committee

Conferred with the new Committee Chair Jim Johnston. He will schedule a meeting during July.

Environmental Restoration Committee

Contacted Board members about the next SSAB Stewardship Conference. Fran Berting volunteered to be on the Planning Committee.

Arranged for and then canceled the June 5 Committee meeting.

Monitoring and Surveillance Committee

Arranged for, attended, took minutes and drafted minutes of the June 14 Committee meeting.

Confirmed travel arrangements for Anthony Armijo to attend the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research technical training program on June 22-25. The training is on water protection around nuclear weapons facilities.

Conferred with Anthony Armijo and MJ Byrne about complaint from Hank Daneman.

Conferred with Anthony Armijo about proposed recommendation on water quality issues.

Waste Management

Conferred with Sara Galpin about June 19 Committee meeting.

Sent notice, attended, took notes and drafted the minutes of the June 19 Committee meeting.

Conferred with George Chandler, Sara Galpin, MJ Byrne, Joe Vozella and Chris Murnane about the proposed recommendation on the removal of waste at TA-54.

Conferred with Joe Vozella and Sara Galpin about the possibility of technical assistance from Bob Enz, contractor.

Conferred with Barbara Wise at Hanford and Wendy Lowe at INEEL about the Site Visits planned for this year. Sent email messages to Joe Field about his representing the Board at the July 18 and 19 INEEL Board meeting.

Conferred with Jim Johnston about his proposed joint recommendation on ATMX transportation to WIPP. Sent email messages to Rocky Flats, Hanford, Savannah River, and INEEL.

Board Meeting Preparation

Conferred with MJ Byrne, Menice Manzanares, Julie Canepa, and Paul Schumann regarding the ER Report to the Board on June 28.

Requested changes to the April 2000 minutes from James Alarid, Patrick Feehan, Anthony Armijo. No suggested changes were received. Drafted expanded April Board minutes as requested by the Board.

Prepared travel request forms for Board members to stay overnight after June 28 Board meeting.

Office Management

Drafted Office Operations Manual to document procedures used in the office.

Sent notices of public meetings to Board members.

Travel Expenses

Conferred with Grace Roybal to reconcile our travel records.

Sent to Board members notices of checks for reimbursing travel expenses.