

General

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
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**Waste Management Committee Minutes
June 19, 2000**

Committee Members Present: Sara Galpin, Chair; George Chandler
Resource People: Joe Vozella, DOE/LAAO; Bob Weeks, NMED
Staff: Ann DuBois, PWT

Sara Galpin opened the meeting at 5:45 p.m. The proposed agenda was accepted. The March Committee minutes were approved as amended.

George Chandler reported on his trip to Oak Ridge. He discussed the staffing pattern at Oak Ridge where DOE provides the staff support for the Board. During the Oak Ridge Board Meeting, the private contractor doing the Dose Reconstruction Project made a report. Two Board members participated in the Dose Reconstruction Project oversight committee and they made the presentation to the Board. The contractor recommended that Oak Ridge not do an epidemiological study. Oak Ridge has problems with radioactive, TRU waste and mercury contamination. The Separation Facility is being demolished and has asbestos to be removed. The waste, including plutonium, from Paducah goes to Oak Ridge. The water table is close to the surface so the contamination goes into the creeks. The Board had good public participation and has two student members. Mr. Chandler found the tour and the briefing book prepared for the tour were very helpful. Sara Galpin asked Ann DuBois to send the Waste Management Site Tour Questions to Mr. Chandler for his report to the June 28 Board meeting.

Ms. Galpin reviewed the schedule for the upcoming site visits. Joe Field volunteered to attend the INEEL Board meeting in July. Ms. Galpin asked Ann DuBois to contact Joe Field about his representing our Board at the INEEL Board meeting and to send him the Waste Management Site Visit Questions. Ms. DuBois was asked to contact Paul Schumann about a short presentation on the Cerro Grande Fire that Mr. Field could give to the INEEL Board. Ms. Galpin will explore whether she can attend the Savannah River Board meeting on July 24 and 25. Ms. Galpin asked Ann DuBois to send her more information about this meeting. Ms. Galpin reported on her conversations with Fran Berting and Patrick Feehan about the Hanford Board meeting. The Hanford Board is scheduled to meet in September and November. No decision was made about who would attend the Hanford Board meeting.

Ms. Galpin asked Mr. Vozella about the fire at MDA-R. Mr. Vozella reported that MDA-R is 80% excavated producing 2000 cubic feet of materials that have been characterized. The materials were excavated using a remote handler previously used at



MDA-P. This site was not complex – no rad, no mixed chemicals. The 80% level was paid as part of the fire cleanup. The other 20% will be paid by the ER Program budget. The lesson learned is what methods adapted from emergency conditions could be used in other excavations.

Ms. Galpin asked Mr. Vozella about the above ground waste threat. Other sites like Rocky Flats, Hanford and INEEL appear to receive priority above LANL due to their State Compliance Orders. The Committee was concerned about the amount of waste that might be generated as a result of 1/3 of the lab being burned including some being contaminated areas. Lower Mortandad Canyon burned. TA-54 was OK because it was on a mesa top and no fuel load surrounded the domes. In TA-59, some similar domes as the ones used at TA-54, did not burn even when the fire scorched the surrounding grass and melted fiberglass trailers. Mr. Chandler was concerned about the risk to White Rock if any contamination were released. This option was discussed in the Environmental Impact Statement. Ms. Galpin and Mr. Chandler wanted to consult with Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department Peter Maggiore about this possible risk. Mr. Vozella said that after the fire, LANL requested from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) an additional \$40 million - \$10 million over four to five years. DOE wanted to accelerate the shipping schedule due to the public perception of risk. OMB did not support this request. Mr. Chandler drafted a recommendation: "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 to 2008 to eliminate the above ground storage of legacy TRU waste and to minimize the above ground storage of new waste." This recommendation was accepted by Ms. Galpin and Mr. Chandler.

Mr. Weeks asked Mr. Vozella about some air quality monitoring data taken during the Cerro Grande fire on May 11, North of White Rock near the intersection of Route 4 and the Truck Route. Mr. Vozella said that he would have Steve Fong of the Los Alamos Area Office contact Mr. Weeks about this data.

Mr. Vozella said that the EIS on TA-18 is likely to be delayed until the next fiscal year. The public scoping may have to be repeated. Mr. Weeks said that NMED is concerned about the fugitive neutrons coming from TA-18. These fugitive neutrons decay quickly and are not regulated by the Clean Air Act. Approximately 50 to 100 employees work at TA-18. The annual budget is \$3 million for programmatic costs and \$15 million to operate the facility. The security force of 100 to 150 costs approximately \$9 to 10 million. The preferred option to date is to move these operations to TA-55.

Mr. Weeks said that NMED has a question about the calculations for the location of maximum dose that an individual could receive. Mr. Weeks is addressing this issue through his conversations with LANL.

Ms. Galpin and Mr. Chandler discussed the current staffing pattern with the Santa Fe Office. Ms. Galpin wanted to know the procedure for hiring facilitator or technical assistance for the Committee's work. Mr. Vozella said that funds are available in the existing budget for these tasks. Mr. Vozella suggested that Bob Enz could research and answer some of the questions that the Committee has.

Mr. Chandler said that he would like to see a press release after every Board meeting. Ms. DuBois said that a press release was put out after the May Board meeting. Mr. Chandler offered to call Christine Armijo, LANL Community Involvement Office to see if their staff could draft the press release for MJ Byrne's and the Board's approval.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 17 at 6:00 p.m.

ACTIONS:

1. Ann DuBois was asked to send George Chandler the questions asked by the Waste Management Committee and other Board Committees to George Chandler. Ann DuBois sent him the questions on June 20.
2. George Chandler will prepare a report on his Oak Ridge trip for the June 28 Board meeting.
3. Ann DuBois was asked to contact Liz Withers about the EIS on TA-18. Ann DuBois called her on June 20. Ms. Withers said that the EIS is on hold pending funding available in the next fiscal year.
4. Ann DuBois was asked to contact Joe Field about his representing our Board at the INEEL Board meeting and to send him the Waste Management Site Visit Questions. Ann DuBois sent an email message and the questions to Joe Field on June 21.
5. Ms. Galpin asked Ann DuBois to send her more information about the Savannah River Board meeting on July 24 and 25. On June 20, Ann DuBois emailed Sara Galpin more information about this meeting and the Waste Management Site Questions.
6. Ms. Galpin will explore which Board member could attend the Hanford Board in September or November.
7. Ms. DuBois will contact Paul Schumann about a short presentation on the Cerro Grande Fire that Mr. Field could give to the INEEL Board. Ms. DuBois called Mr. Schumann on June 21.
8. Ms. Galpin and Mr. Chandler will make an appointment to consult with Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department Peter Maggiore.

9. Mr. Chandler offered to call Christine Armijo, LANL Community Involvement Office to see if their staff could draft the press release for MJ Byrne's and the Board's approval.