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General

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
 1660 Old Pecos Trail, Suite B
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
 505-989-1662 or 800-218-5842
 Fax 505-989-1672
 www.nnmcab.org

Rec'd
JUL 23 2001

July 12, 2001

Dear Board Members:

Enclosed are the papers you will need for our July 25th Board meeting. We will be meeting at the Cities of Gold Hotel, 10A Cities of Gold Road in Pojoaque. **Please note the new location and call 505-455-0515 for directions.**

Items discussed at the June board meeting that are scheduled for the July meeting are:

- ER program priorities under the new DOE budget
- Second reading on Waste Management Committee's recommendation
- Budget review and adjustments
- Update on the SSAB Chairs meeting
- Draft of the Openness Plan
- Board Recruitment
- Updated presentation package on the Board per Dr. Berting

Please consider, again, the community organizations to which you belong and how the Board might connect with them. We want to make presentations at community meetings to inform participants about the Board's work and to attract new Board members.

We will also conduct Board business including committee reports. As stated above, the Waste Management Committee's recommendation on the Arrow Pak project is scheduled for a second reading and Board action.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Signature for Menice

Menice Santistevan-Manzanares
 Chair NNM CAB



Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board General Meeting

Cities of Gold Casino Hotel
Tribal Room
Pojoaque, New Mexico 87501
July 25, 2001

Agenda

- 6:00 p.m. I. Opening
- Call to Order by Department of Energy
 - Welcome
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Minutes--June
 - Board Comments
- 6:20 p.m. II. Public Comments
- 6:40 p.m. III. Board Business
- Report from the Chair (Menice S. Manzanares)
 - Report from the Department of Energy (Ted Taylor)
 - Committee Reports
 - Monitoring and Surveillance (June Fabryka-Martin)
 - Waste Management (Richard Gale)
 - Environmental Restoration (Fran Berting)
 - Community Outreach (Jim Johnston)
 - Budget (Don Jordan)
- 7:30 p.m. Break
- 7:40 p.m. III. Board Business (continued)
- Fiscal Year 2001 Budget Review and Modification (Don Jordan)
 - Briefing: Planning for SSAB Chairs Meeting (Barbara Harrelson)
 - Second Reading on Waste Management Committee Recommendation on ArrowPak Proposal (Richard Gale)
- 8:15 p.m. IV. Discussion
- Draft Openness Plan for Community Communication and Coordination (Jim Brannon)
- 8:45 p.m. V. Meeting Evaluation and Development of September Meeting Agenda
- 9:00 p.m. VI. Adjourn

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**Board Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2001**

Board Members Present:

Menice Santistevan-Manzanares, Chair
Jim Johnston, Vice Chair
Fran Berting
Jim Brannon
David Chávez
Richard Gale
Don Jordan
Dorothy Hoard

Board Members Absent: (Excused)

Valerie Espinoza
Maxine Ewankow
Agustin Garcia
Myron Gonzales
Angelina Valdez
June Fabryka-Martin

Board Members Absent: (Unexcused)

George Chandler
Anthony Armijo

Ex-Officio Members: (Present)

Michael P. Baker
ER Acting Director, LANL
Victoria Maranville, for James Bearzi
Hazardous Waste Bureau, NMED
Ted Taylor,
Deputy Designated Federal Officer
Dennis Martinez,
Assistant Area Manager, DOE/LAAO

Ex-Officio Members: (Absent)

Rich Mayer, EPA

Guest(s):

Julie Canepa, ER Manager, LANL
Dolores Garcia, Senator Bingaman's Office
Tim Michael, NMED
Hank Daneman

Facilitator:

Toby Herzlich

Staff:

Ann DuBois, PWT
Barbara Harrelson, ATA Services
Karren Suesz, PWT

I. OPENING

Ted Taylor, DDFO, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. A quorum was established. Mr. Taylor turned the meeting over to Menice S. Manzanares, Chair, who moderated the meeting. Mr. Taylor introduced Barbara Harrelson, ATA Services, who will be working with the SSAB Chairs Conference.

The Board approved as amended the agenda sent to the Board. The motion was passed.

The Board approved as amended the May Board meeting minutes.

II. BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Hoard requested that the Board members receive copies of the letter from Governor Gachupin of the Jemez Pueblo describing the Pueblo's environmental concerns.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hank Daneman, 983-5261

Mr. Daneman commented on the Board's efforts to communicate with the surrounding communities. He discussed the work of the City of Santa Fe Task Force on Water Quality appointed by the City Council. Mr. Daneman is concerned about the strontium 90 that has been found in the perched water zone under LANL. He said that these samples show strontium 90 that is ten times above the legal limit, and that the water in the perched water zones recharges the regional aquifer. Mr. Daneman is concerned that this contamination may show up in the Espanola wells.

Mr. Daneman wanted the Board to be involved in setting the prioritization of the Environmental Restoration projects. He is particularly interested in the contamination found in Acid and Mortandad Canyons, as children play in these canyons. Mr. Daneman is concerned about the strontium 90 contamination in the MCO3 well. This contamination may be coming from the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment plant.

Mr. Daneman said that three years ago Mr. Taylor wrote a summary report on the 600 Potential Release Sites, and at that time three sites had been cleaned up. Most of the work that had been done was characterization studies. Several years ago, the Inspector General audited the Environmental Restoration program. On June 20, Mr. Daneman spoke with Mr. Vozella, DOE Assistant Area Manager for Environment. Mr. Vozella will ask Mr. Taylor to update his report and share it with the Board.

Mr. Daneman said that the monitoring and surveillance sampling data for the past twelve months are incomplete. The sampling data showed strontium 90 was found in wells MCO-4 and 4b. These data from these wells were omitted and no reason was given. Mr. Daneman suggested that the Board have oversight of these sampling data reports. He was

also concerned about the nine-month delay in giving these reports to the public. Mr. Daneman thought that these data should be publicly released in four weeks after they are collected. He thought the laboratory analysis should be done by LANL rather than sending it out to other labs. Mr. Daneman said that important sampling data on these wells that were collected in 1999 were wiped out. The reason that was given for its omission was that LANL decided that the quality control was not acceptable.

Mr. Daneman observed that the LANL Web Page had tables on the contaminants found at LANL. Dr. Rogers listed these tables. Mr. Daneman felt that the public could not understand these tables. He suggested that the Board might suggest a way to interpret these tables.

Mr. Daneman thought that the public wanted to know more about the Waste Management programs. He said that the Waste Management Program Manager's budget was diverted to tasks other than shipping waste.

Mr. Daneman wanted to know about the effect of the change in the Stockpile Stewardship program. Recently President Bush announced his intention to reduce nuclear weapons to one tenth of the current inventory. Mr. Daneman said that this plan meant that the country does not need to maintain a surplus of weapons. He said that the manufacture of plutonium pits at Rocky Flats involved some major accidents that should concern the Board.

Mr. Daneman said that 150 waste cylinders are stored at Area G. The LANL staff drilled small holes in the cylinders and found nickel hydroxide, which is the most poisonous element on earth. Mr. Daneman said that LANL should remove toxic materials rather than burying them.

Mr. Daneman said that LANL is manufacturing biological weapons. He is concerned that LANL does not have a good safety record. An example is the accident that resulted in Efram Martinez being in comma for almost five years. He thought there were too many accidents at LANL. Mr. Daneman stated that Ms. Salazar, a former Board member, expressed concern for family and then LANL took action to care for them. The four scientists on this project did not follow procedures. These scientists were important to the plutonium pit production program. Instead of being punished, these scientists were promoted and given raises. Mr. Daneman said that the public would like to be assured that people who violate safety procedures would be fired.

Mr. Gale asked Mr. Daneman if his reference to the manufacture of biological weapons was the proposed Biosafety Lab Level 3. Mr. Daneman confirmed that he was concerned that this might be a weapons production facility. Mr. Gale requested that staff send the proposed Biosafety Lab presentation sides from the March 2001 Board meeting to Mr. Daneman.

Tim Michael, NMED 428-2557

Mr. Michael invited Board members to participate in the public meetings associated with NMED's independent contract with Risk Assessment Corporation. The Risk Assessment Cooperation is doing a risk assessment on the Cerro Grande fire impact. The task is to ascertain if there is any risk to the public and to the fire fighters.

NMED will host on August 22 a general meeting for the public. The time has not yet been set. The place will be Fuller lodge in Los Alamos. The final report is due in April 2002. The progress meetings are for public input as the process goes along. Mr. Johnston offered to announce the August 22 meeting on the Board's webpage.

Ms. Hoard asked if the tasks and reports on the risk assessment were available on the NMED website. Mr. Michaels said that NMED's website is not accessible to the public. Ms. Hoard requested that Board receive a presentation when the final report is available in April 2002.

Mr. Brannon said that the final report was purchased from public funds so the product belongs to the public. He asked about how NMED plans to publish these documents. Mr. Michaels said that Barbara Hoditschek is the project manager. The State libraries and the UNM library also have NMED's reports. Ms. Herzlich said that the Board wants this information available to the public.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENT

III. REPORTS

A. Chair's Report

Ms. Manzanares reminded Board members about the SSAB Chairs conference to be held from August 26 to 29. The tour on Wednesday (August 29) may include San Ildefonso Pueblo. The Planning Committee is working hard on this event. Ms. Manzanares asked that the Board members receive the agenda survey for the SSAB Chairs meeting and give their input to Ms. Herzlich, who will consolidate the responses into one NNCAB response.

Ms. Manzanares reminded the Board that there would be an election for officers in September. There will be no Board meeting in August.

B. DOE Report

Mr. Taylor distributed a written report. The new Santa Fe office is now open. Board members will be invited to walk through the office to see if more equipment is needed

Mr. Taylor discussed the new staffing pattern. DOE decided to consolidate the administrative support under ATA Services. The staff will expand to include an Office Manager and a Secretary. PWT may provide some of the technical consulting services. For the next few months, two temporary secretaries will work with the Board. Karren Suesz will cover while Ann DuBois is on vacation. Barbara Harrelson will work with the SSAB Chairs conference and the annual report. The staffing decisions should be made by July 15. Mr. Jordan asked for Board members' input into the future office needs.

Mr. Taylor reported on the SSAB Chairs Planning Committee meeting on June 14.

Mr. Taylor drafted a Board recruitment plan and sent it for comment to Ms. Manzanares and Mr. Johnston. Mr. Taylor talked with Martha Crosland, Acting Director of the DOE Office of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability. To facilitate the approval process, she prefers that the Board send more than one nominee at a time. Mr. Taylor said that Mr. Gurule, Los Alamos Area Manager, has authority to make interim appointments to the Board, and appoint a proposed new Board member, Rey Morales, if a vacancy exists.

Mr. Taylor reported that the Environmental Restoration and Monitoring and Surveillance Committees have completed the first draft of the FY2002 workplan. Ms. Herzlich asked if the Committees will be asked to identify their issues and when the Board will address these issues. At the Board Retreat, some items were identified for the Board meeting-planning calendar.

Mr. Taylor said that on May 31, Dr. Fabryka-Martin, Mr. Taylor and Ms. Nash participated in a conference call to plan the SSAB Groundwater Conference. Dr. Fabryka-Martin plans to attend this conference. The Monitoring and Surveillance Committee is reviewing the Laboratory's Hydrogeological Work Plan.

Ms. Manzanares thanked Mr. Taylor for his part in the smooth transition from MJ Byrne as Deputy Designated Federal Officer.

C. Waste Management Committee

Mr. Gale, Committee Chair Pro Tem, reported that the Committee met on June 18. Dr. Mark Perkrill presented some information on cost optimization and LANL's efforts on automating the quality assurance processes. LANL is making progress in computerization for the calculation and analysis of quality assurance reports. In a pilot study, these efforts have considerably reduced the quality assurance workload and cost by 80%. These changes also mean a reduction in the time to get transuranic waste off the hill to WIPP. The certification and characterization processes have also accelerated.

One method that has assisted this process is the use of the ArrowPak container for shipping high wattage drums. These drums could be placed in ArrowPak containers and then in Trupak II containers. If this process can be accomplished without repackaging, it will result in a \$350 million cost reduction. Reducing the number of barrels will reduce the time to ship. This will be a safer process for the public. It is also a big improvement in worker safety when they do not have to repackage, as the waste will not have to be put into glove boxes manually and processed. A demonstration project for ArrowPak has not been funded. Approximately \$1.75 million is required for testing and proving the technology. The Waste Management Committee drafted a recommendation on this topic. The recommendation was distributed for the first reading.

Mr. Brannon asked if the WIPP permit would be affected by this technology change. Mr. Gale said that there would be no impact. Steve Zappe from NMED is aware of this proposed change and attended the meeting on June 18. Mr. Zappe confirmed that use of ArrowPak would not affect NMED's regulations. Mr. Brannon suggested that Westinghouse TRU Solutions at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant must be involved if this technology can be used. Mr. Gale said that this information would not affect this recommendation.

Mr. Johnston added that this technology is significant for the issue of volume reduction, too. He added that DOE has given Research and Demonstration money for this project.

The second reading for this recommendation will be at the July Board meeting. Mr. Jordan suggested that the recommendation be put in the newspaper advertisements for the July Board meeting.

D. Monitoring and Surveillance Committee

Dr. Fabryka-Martin, Committee Chair, was on vacation. Mr. Taylor reported that the Committee met on June 13. The Committee is preparing fact sheets for ten topics. These fact sheets will be two kinds: informational and issue. The Committee is also drafting the scope of work and the calendar for next fiscal year.

E. Environmental Restoration Committee

Dr. Berting, Committee Chair, reported on the June 11 meeting. The Committee worked on the general outline for the next fiscal year work plan that will be further developed at the July 9 meeting at the Johnson Controls office in Espanola.

Dr. Berting announced the June 27 Workshop on Material Disposal Area H. This is a pilot project for the prioritization and cleanup process for other Material Disposal Areas. LANL, DOE and NMED staff members have formed a High

Performing Team to work on this project. The public is invited to this workshop, for which LANL mailed out over 2000 invitation letters. The documents related to this project are on the Environmental Restoration Project Web Page. The workshop was advertised in the Journal North, the New Mexican, the Rio Grande Sun, the Los Alamos Monitor and radio interviews, and the LANL newsbulletin. There will be joint presentations with Board members, NMED and LANL staff. The June 27 workshop will begin with a poster session at 4:00 to 4:30 and the workshop ends at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Taylor thanked Sandra Martinez, LANL Environmental Restoration Project, who assisted the Committee with this workshop.

Other Committee activities include a discussion of LANL's cleanup priorities given the new federal budget. A presentation on this topic and the Environmental Restoration Project prioritization process will be given at the July 9 Committee meeting.

The Long-Term Stewardship conference will be held from July 30 to August 2 in Grand Junction. The Environmental Protection Agency and state regulators will discuss what they are thinking about Long-term Stewardship. The conference is entitled "The Future through the Past". Long-term stewardship will be a future activity of the Committee and Dr. Berting invited Board members to attend. The website that is helpful for participants is www.doe.gjpo.com/programs/ltsm. Mr. Brannon and Dr. Berting would like to attend the conference.

F. Community Outreach Committee –

Mr. Johnston, Committee Chair, made the report. The Committee did not meet this month. He designed a SSAB Chairs conference webpage on the Board's website.

Mr. Taylor drafted a plan for community outreach for Board member recruitment. One of Mr. Taylor's high priorities is the recruitment of new Board members. Mr. Johnston said that the Bylaws Committee is exploring the addition of a student member. Ms. Manzanares suggested that a college student contest would be a good idea to reduce the liability issue of a minor child traveling to Board meetings. Mr. Johnston announced that he will participate in a radio show interview on KRSN on June 21 to discuss the June Board meeting.

Mr. Johnston suggested that the Board hold an Open House sometime in the fall to introduce the public to the new Santa Fe office and the staff.

H. Budget Committee

Mr. Jordan, Committee Chair, reported that the Budget Committee met on June 20. He distributed a written report and reviewed recent activities. The Fiscal

Year 2001 budget will be amended and distributed at the July Board meeting. The Committee will suggest how to adjust line items. The new office move and equipment changed the budget requirements. The Committee will meet in August. Mr. Jordan requested that the Committees draft their budget requests by July 31. At the September Board meeting, the FY2002 budget will be presented. He requested that the Executive Officers and staff review the projected equipment needs.

I. Followup on Board Retreat

Ms. Herzlich reported on issues that have already been discussed. These issues include changing the Board meeting format for longer meetings, on a bi-monthly basis; a process for formulating meeting agendas; experimenting with a shorter form for Committee minutes; and deciding that the major work will be done in Committees.

Ms. Herzlich said that the Board has not yet discussed Board composition and recruitment; staffing needs and rationale; communication channels; consensus decision-making; Board structure, such as an Executive Committee; and engaging the public.

Dr. Berting suggested that the Board discuss the possibility of creating an Executive Committee at July meeting. Ms. Manzanares suggested that the Board should discuss Board recruitment. She is also concerned that there is so little representation from the Pueblos. Mr. Brannon moved, seconded by Dr. Berting to create an ad hoc Executive Committee. Ms. Manzanares amended the motion that the Executive Committee be composed of the Chair, the Vice Chair, and Committee Chairs. Dr. Berting suggested that the Executive Committee could meet in between Board meetings.

Mr. Brannon said that the purpose of the Executive Committee is to build the Board meeting agenda, take care of housekeeping items, have input into staffing, and make budget requests. This Executive Committee should act as an Ad Hoc Committee pending changes in the Bylaws. Ms. Manzanares asked that the amendments to the bylaws be ready for the September Board meeting. Mr. Gale asked the Executive Committee to define their responsibilities and for this definition Scope of authority to be put in the bylaws. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Richard was concerned about needing to increase new Board members. Ms. Manzanares said DOE regulations require a balance of opinions. Ms. Herzlich suggested that the Board discuss these issues at the September meeting.

Mr. Taylor distributed a draft plan for how the Board and Committees could conduct public outreach. He suggested that the Board target groups rather than

individuals for membership on the Board. Mr. Taylor requested that Board members consider these points. Mr. Taylor said that this agenda item can be discussed at the September Board meeting. He believes that some of these plans could be implemented at the staff level.

Mr. Brannon asked about what document the Board wants to produce as part of this thinking about the community outreach plan. Mr. Jordan talked about the Board's role in disseminating information to the public and reducing public misunderstanding of what is happening at LANL. Fact Sheets could distribute information and describe issues for the public. Mr. Taylor discussed the role of interest groups in relationship to the Board. Mr. Brannon volunteered to draft an openness plan for discussion at a future Board meeting.

J. July Board Meeting Agenda

The Board gave input into the agenda. These items could include a report on the Environmental Restoration Program priorities under the new Department of Energy's budget, the Second reading on Waste Management Committee's recommendation, Budget review and adjustments, update on the SSAB Chairs meeting, a draft of the Openness Plan, and Board recruitment. Dr. Berting requested an updated presentation package on the Board.

K. Evaluation of Board Meeting

The Board members offered their observations that what worked is that the discussion stayed on time. Good discussion, Good food. Communicate better dialogue happening. Time to dialogue. Not having presentation at every meeting. Had some public comment. Mr. Gale appreciated Ms. Herzlich's comments on the Waste Management Committee's recommendation. All the Committees did not report. May need to look at whether each Committee needs to report at each meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:02 PM.

The minutes are an accurate and complete summary of the matters discussed and conclusions reached at the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board meeting held on June 20, 2001.

Certified by:

Menice S. Manzanares, Chair

Date

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
Waste Management Committee

Meeting Notes
June 18, 2001

The Waste Management Committee met on June 18 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the NNM CAB office. Attending were Richard Gale, acting committee chair; Ted Williams, committee member; Steve Zappe, NMED; Chris Murnane, DOE-AL; Mark Pickrell, UC; and Ted Taylor, DOE-LAAO/DDFO.

The committee heard a presentation by Dr. Mark Pickrell on cost and schedule optimization initiatives being proposed for the transuranic (TRU) waste characterization and disposal program at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Principal cost and schedule drivers were identified as (a) repackaging of high wattage drums, and (b) quality assurance procedures.

Two initiatives were identified: (1) automation of process tracking and quality assurance, and (2) use of the ArrowPak container. These initiatives are discussed below.

Automation of Process Tracking and Quality Assurance. This initiative, which has successfully passed a pilot test, involves establishing an integrated and automated tracking system for drums, combined with automated quality assurance checks. The system uses a "touch based" computer terminal, connected to a software system which integrates and controls all stages in the processing of drums: removing from inventory, inspecting, repackaging as required, characterizing the waste, performing quality assurance checks, controlling for "material at risk" (MAR) requirements, and staging for shipment. The FRAM process review system is employed. Full implementation of this system, assuming optimum utilization of infrastructure and management employees, could yield a reduction in cost and time on a per drum basis to one-sixth of present costs and schedules.

Use of ArrowPak Container. The ArrowPak container, an cylinder of 2" thick plastic material approximately 3' in diameter, could be used to transport two or three TRU waste drums in the Trupact II shipping container. The ArrowPak system is designed to create a partial vacuum in the container, thus removing the oxygen required for combustion of the hydrogen gas generated inside the drums, and then refilling the container to ambient pressure with an inert gas (carbon dioxide or helium). The system would (a) meet all existing federal and state environmental and safety regulations, (b) eliminate the "bag busting" technique, and (c) eliminate the need to repackage high wattage drums. "Proof of principle" demonstrations are being proposed to the Department of Energy. Computational and experimental studies are being proposed to demonstrate that (1) combustion cannot occur inside the ArrowPak due to lack of oxygen, (2) combustion cannot occur even with oxygen present due to the presence of a combustion inhibitor [carbon dioxide or helium], (3) any combustion cannot breach the ArrowPak container,

and (4) with any breach of the container, explosion cannot occur due to the lack of containment.

With present funding profiles, the two initiatives could reduce costs for TRU waste management at LANL by \$250M to \$400M over a 15-20 year period, and for all other DOE facilities could reduce costs by more than \$1,000M. Approximate costs for the demonstration studies are \$2M.

The committee will evaluate the proposals, and may propose a recommendation to the NNM CAB at its June 20, 2001 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore J. Taylor
DDFO

Attachment: Mark Pickrell Viewgraphs

FOR SECOND READING

rev: 7/16/2001

Waste Management Committee Recommendation to
Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board

Whereas: Removal of TRANSURANIC (TRU) waste from the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) was determined by the Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board to be the Highest Priority Objective of this year.

Whereas: Many containers of TRU waste at LANL are classified as HIGH WATTAGE due to internal hydrogen generation; and

Whereas: The current plan is to repackage these containers to meet the regulatory limits; and

Whereas: There is a proposed alternative method that places these High Wattage containers in an ArrowPak container, which is evacuated and backfilled with a passive gas, (eliminating the need to repackage), and:

Whereas: This proposed method, if approved and demonstrated successfully, will save significant time and money, both at LANL and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), and will also increase safety to both employees and the public;

It is therefore recommended that the Department of Energy provide the necessary funding (\$XXX million) for this developmental project as soon as possible, and no-later than October 1, 2001.

Respectfully Submitted by
Richard E Gale
Acting Chairman, Waste Management Committee

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
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**Environmental Restoration Committee
9 July 2001 at Johnson Controls, Espanola**

Committee Members Present:

Fran Berting, Chair
Jim Brannon via Phone
Dorothy Hoard
Maxine Ewankow

Committee Members Absent:

Angelina Valdez

Resource People:

Ted Taylor, DDFO DOE LAAO
Woody Woodworth, DOE LAAO
Mat Johansen, DOE LAAO
Carmen Rodriguez, LANL ER
Paula Bertino, LANL ER
Warren Neff, LANL ER
Charles Wilson, ATA Services SME
Terra Nash, ATA Services

Guests:

Cheryl Rofer
Susan Wilson
Reid Allan, Souder, Miller & Associates
Todd Burt, Souder, Miller & Associates
Greg Mello, Los Alamos Study Group

Dr. Fran Berting, ER Committee Chair, opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and introductions were made.

MDA H RFI

Charles Wilson presented to the ER committee the results of a review of the RCRA Facility Investigation for MDA H that he was contracted to do for the committee. The report was handed out in draft form. The final document will be submitted to ATA and ATA will submit it to the Department of Energy. The main issues that Mr. Wilson identified are as follows:

- The RFI is not a complete report, additional sampling is ongoing.
- No sampling for high explosives is/has been done
- Downward waste migration is not well defined as a long term issue

- The lateral extent of the tritium plume is not fully defined and could be an issue if on site closure is the chosen alternative.
- The contributing elements of risk were not well defined.

The data gaps in the RFI are recognized by LANL, DOE and NMED, that is why additional sampling is in progress. The DOE has been asked by the ER Committee to review Mr. Wilson's report and provide comments on it to the ER committee. The committee will use the report and associated comments to decide if a recommendation on the RFI will be necessary. The DOE will try to have comments available at the August ER meeting.

LANL ER Project Prioritization

Warren Neff, Acting Program Manager of the LANL ER Program gave a good overview of the LANL ER Prioritization Process. The prioritization process currently in use was created in 1999 with the assistance of the DOE and NMED. This process allows the lab to identify the most important/hazardous sites so that funding can be appropriated, and cleanups completed as necessary. The focus of the risk analysis portion of the process is current risks although future risks are considered. ER project prioritization is updated on a yearly basis. Several copies of this presentation are available in the NNM CAB Office. The ER Committee will be talking more on this topic in August.

Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group provided some comments on the ER prioritization or projects and the work to be done with the recent grant received by the LASG. The grant money received by the LASG will be used to better understand the ER prioritization and inform the public of the prioritization process. They are also working on an independent prioritization list with the help of Souder, Miller and Associates, a local engineering firm. The LASG is concerned that lots of money has been spent studying sites and very little actual work is being done; they would like to see more action. Mr. Mello also included a list of concerns that he has developed from the public. The public issues of concern are medical risks, long-term environmental damage, concern for receptor populations (down stream populations, not exposures where the facility fences exist), equity issues and ecological concerns.

Todd Burt and Reid Allan of Souder, Miller and Associates briefly outlined the work that they will be doing for the LASG. They will be creating a web accessible database focusing on the ER projects at LANL. An independent ranking of the ER projects will be done using a methodology found in the CERCLA regulations. A synopsis of each TA or PRS will be included in an easily accessible format.

LANL RCRA Permit Modification (NFA)

Jim Brannon had no significant comments on the permit modification. Dorothy Hoard had two comments. Dorothy asked what is (did) LANL/DOE going to do with the "stuff" you took away? This question is not answered in the permit modification document. The other question was about the NFA request at sites where there was no sampling done. How can DOE/LANL request a NFA designation if they didn't sample the site for potential contamination? The first question will be one for further discussion. The second question was answered by DOE: no testing was done at sites where acceptable knowledge was found. Acceptable knowledge had to be verified by two independent sources before the NFA was submitted.

NNMCAB ER Work Plan

The prioritization of ER projects is a topic that should be significantly covered in FY-01 but an update in November of 2001 was requested to identify how the FY-02 budget cuts affect LANL ER projects. These changes will be made by Terra Nash. Terra will also expand section 2 of the draft Work Plan, send it out for discussion by e-mail, and fax (Maxine and Angelina).

The last item discussed was to sustain an effort to keep in touch with the LASG and follow their prioritization project. It is of interest to the committee members because it overlaps some with the topics and issues of interest to the ER committee.

The next meeting will be at 6:00 PM on August 13th in the Johnson Controls Conference Room in Espanola. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Assigned tasks:

Terra will get copies of Warren Neff's presentation to ER Committee members who were not in attendance. (Jim Brannon will also get a copy of the full presentation.)

Warren Neff or someone else in the ER program will provide the NNMCAB with a color map that details the watersheds as identified in the ER prioritization process.

Angelina will try to find a fax machine in Velarde that the CAB can use to send her information from time to time.

Fran will invite the other committee chairs to the ER committee meetings so they can help with overlapping topics of interest.

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Walatowa Visitors' Center
Jemez Pueblo

Board Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2001

Board Members Present:

Jim Johnston, Chair Pro Tem
Fran Berting
Jim Brannon
Valerie Espinoza
David Chávez
June Fabryka-Martin
Richard Gale
Agustin Garcia
Myron Gonzales
Dorothy Hoard
Angelina Valdez

Board Members Absent:

George Chandler (Excused)
Maxine Ewankow (Excused)
Don Jordan (Excused)
Menice S. Manzanares (Excused)

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Wes , for Michael P. Baker, ER Acting
Director, LANL
Vickie Maranville for James Bearzi, Chief,
Hazardous Materials Bureau, NMED
Ted Taylor, Deputy Designated Federal Official
Joe Vozella, Assistant Area Manager, DOE/LAAO

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Rich Mayer, EPA

Guests:

Anthony Armijo
Julie Canepa, ER/LANL
Mehrdad Katibi, Jemez Pueblo
Environmental Division Manager and Resource Protection Officer
Carmen M. Rodriguez, ER/LANL
Tom Starke, Stewardship/LANL

Facilitator:

Toby Herzlich

Staff:

Ann DuBois, PWT

Terra Nash, ATA Services

I. OPENING

Ted Taylor, DDFO, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established. Dr. Taylor turned the meeting over to Jim Johnston who moderated the meeting in the absence of Menice S. Manzanares, Chair. Mr. Johnston welcomed Dr. Taylor as the new DDFO.

Anthony Armijo introduced Governor Cajero of Jemez Pueblo. The Governor welcomed the Board to the Jemez Pueblo.

Mr. Brannon moved, seconded by Ms. Hoard, to approve as amended the April Board meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

Mr. Johnston introduced the nomination of Reyaldo Morales as a potential Board member. Ms. Espinoza moved, seconded by Ms. Valdez, to approve the nomination of Dr. Morales. The motion passed.

II. BOARD COMMENTS

No Board Comments

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Ms. Hoard introduced the Risk-Based Cleanup recommendation for a second reading. Ms. Hoard accepted the amendments suggested by Dr. Berting and Dr. Fabryka-Martin.

Ms. Hoard moved that the amended recommendation be adopted. The recommendation is as follows

BACKGROUND: The Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board (NNMCAB) understands that the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses five criteria used to select cleanup options for hazardous waste sites: a) long-term effectiveness and permanence; b) treatment to reduce toxicity, mobility, or volume; c) short-term effectiveness; d) whether the remedy can be implemented; and e) cost. Other criteria include state and community acceptance. Concerning decisions for cleaning up

contaminated sites at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), members of the NNM CAB understand the following.

- LANL uses theoretical calculations to determine the health risks that hazardous materials might inflict, such as chronic sickness or the occurrence of cancer.
- LANL decisions to clean up contaminated sites are based on the following risk levels: a) for carcinogens, the chance that one person in 100,000 might develop an excess cancer in a lifetime; b) for radioactive material, a dose of 15 millirem per year above background radiation, which is approximately 325 millirem per year; c) for noncarcinogens, a level determined by (EPA) above which adverse effects might occur.
- LANL risk-based calculations are based on expected land use. Land uses may include residential, farming, recreational, industrial, office workers, childcare, etc.
- Cleanup plans generally must be approved by a regulatory agency, such as the New Mexico Environment Department. In evaluating LANL cleanup plans, NMED may use different guidelines in determining health risks. NMED may require more thorough cleanup before agreeing that no further action is necessary.
- Risks to the environment, including plants and animals, are considered in evaluating cleanup alternatives.

The NNM CAB understands that Department of Energy (DOE) decisions for radioactive cleanups are based on the as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) concept. The ALARA approach chooses cleanup alternatives using current standard cleanup methods under current costs. The NNM CAB assumes that DOE actively pursues the development of improved cleanup methods. The NNM CAB agrees that ALARA decisions are an appropriate means of determining how much to clean up hazardous sites. The NNM CAB further agrees that when a cleanup reaches the ALARA optimum for a particular site, further cleanup may not be beneficial to the public or to the environment.

RECOMMENDATION: The NNM CAB recommends that risk-based decisions are not the only factor in deciding to clean a site and that ALARA considerations are not based solely on minimizing cost. Other considerations may be the presence of hot spots, the presence of physical hazards in connection with regulated hazardous material, the potential for release to more sensitive areas, public concerns and perception of risk, alignment with Long Term Environmental Stewardship goals, etc. In addition, it is imperative that the DOE develop a Native American land use scenario.

The NNM CAB further recommends the following considerations be explicitly addressed in cleanup plans and that the information be available to the public prior to reaching decisions for cleanups.

- What hazardous materials are present and for which materials is the cleanup conducted? Will all regulatory requirements and public agreements be met by the cleanup?

- What future land use was used to calculate risk and what are other likely land uses? Have Native American uses been included in the assessment, if appropriate?
- How does the decision relate to the DOE Long Term Environmental Stewardship Plan? What actions taken now will reduce the cleanup burden on future generations? What happens if more contaminated spots are discovered after the cleanup is completed?
- What will become of the material removed from the site, and how will it be transported? Is the material being disposed in a place that exposes other people to the hazards?
- What will become of the hazardous material left on the site after the ALARA cleanup is completed?
- What disturbance and damage will be inflicted upon the environment while doing the cleanup, and what actions are proposed to mitigate adverse effects?

The recommendation as amended passed unanimously.

V. REPORTS

A. **Pollution Prevention Conference, 505-667-6711**

Alicia Hale, LANL Stewardship Office, invited Board members to attend the second Pollution Prevention Conference in Albuquerque. The conference will be held June 19-21. The website for the conference is <http://p2werc.net>. The focus is on environmental remediation of DOE sites.

B. **Chair's Report**

Mr. Johnston announced that on June 6, the staff would move the office to 1660 Old Pecos Trail, Suite B, Santa Fe. The phone and fax numbers will stay the same.

Mr. Johnston reminded Board members about the SSAB Chairs meeting in August 26-29. Board members are encouraged to attend this event.

Several Board members offered their evaluation of the Retreat. Ms. Herzlich outlined the suggestions generated from the Board Retreat. These suggestions include the following items

Work on Mission

- Facilitate two-way communication with public about ER/WM issues
- Facilitate communication between agencies

- Have input into decision-making regarding clean-up

High Priorities for the Next Year

- Ship to WIPP
- Input into prioritized ER sites
- Budget stabilization

Committees began developing Work Plans to implement these priorities.

Proposals for whole Board discussion and decision

- Bi-monthly with longer meetings
- Full day, 1:00 – 4:30 session
 - Reports
 - Board business
 - Recommendations

Dinner Break

6:00- 8:30 Session

- Presentations
 - Public Comment
 - Discussion among Board members
- Technical topics should be presented in one-hour maximum briefings to the full Board. Longer presentations could be offered at the committee level.
 - Re-evaluate the meeting locations e.g., the distant meeting locations should be only scheduled with topics relevant to the location. For this year, the Board will go to Cochiti Pueblo but not to Las Vegas.

Dr. Fabryka-Martin moved, seconded by Dr. Berting that the bi-monthly meeting format be accepted as a pilot project for six months. There will be Board meetings in June and July with no meeting in August. This new format will start in September. The motion passed with one negative vote.

- Experiment with new Committee minutes format in a one-page format.
- Agenda-building process for Board meetings
 - Use WorkPlan as a guide
 - Brainstorm at one meeting for next meeting
 - Meet or conference call with Chair, Committee Chairs, DDFO, and facilitator

C. DOE Report

Dr. Taylor distributed a written report. DOE provided support to the Environmental Restoration, Waste Management and Monitoring and Surveillance Committees for their May meetings. The SSAB Chairs Conference Planning Committee met on May 12, May 18 and will meet again on June 1. The major events will include a reception and a tour of the Cerro Grande effects and the Los Alamos townsite.

Dr. Taylor reported on the response status to the Board's recommendations. The Los Alamos Area Office Area Manager sent the response to the Acid Canyon cleanup recommendation on May 9. The Los Alamos Area Office Area Manager sent the response to the Arrow-Pac™ Mixed Waste Treatment Technology on May 24.

Dr. Taylor said that the Committees are drafting their FY 2002 Work Plans and budget requests. This process must be completed during August and submitted to the Board at the September meeting. Following approval, DOE will request funding through DOE-AL.

The next SSAB conference will be on groundwater. The conference will be held in Augusta, Georgia on November 8-10. The Savannah River CAB is coordinating this event. They requested that each Board designate two people to serve on the planning committee for this event.

Dr. Taylor mentioned his interest in recruiting more members for the Board. He suggested that the Board advertise to recruit potential members.

Ms. Nash reported the SSAB Chairs conference would be held at the Hilton Hotel in Santa Fe. Ms. Nash is also working on the tour to be held on Wednesday, August 29.

Dr. Taylor requested that Board members contact him about overdue travel reimbursements.

D. Waste Management Committee

Mr. Gale, Committee Chair Pro Tem, distributed a written report. He reported that the Committee met on April 4 at the Santa Fe office. Mr. Gale accepted the duties and responsibilities to act as Interim Chair of the Waste Management Committee. Dave McCullum, LANL, made presentation on a proposal for shipping waste within lab property without requiring road closures, as is the present practice. The Committee

requested their participation in the ongoing development and demonstration of this proposed project.

On May 7, the Committee met at the DOE office in Los Alamos. Thirteen members of the Waste Management Committee and CAB board attended. Three new members of the Waste Management Committee were introduced: John Crews, Tim Butler and Rod Sharp. Gary Allen, James Nunz, Pam Rogers and Greg Bayhurst presented a very complete and comprehensive program defining the TRU waste cycle and the related complexities.

On May 21, the Committee met at the Santa Fe Board office. Ted Williams was introduced as a new member of the Waste Management Committee. The prime Committee objective, as identified at the Board retreat, is the safe acceleration of TRU waste removal from LANL. Some action items were discussed, identified and prioritized from the May 7 meeting. The vacuum bursting and inert shipping of TRU waste was determined to be the most likely candidate for significant cost and schedule improvement and therefore given a high priority. LANL / DOE were requested to brief the committee on this process at the next meeting.

E. Monitoring and Surveillance Committee

Dr. Fabryka-Martin, Committee Chair, will focus on draft Work Plan for FY2002. The major issues for next year would be (1) ground water, (2) surface water and (3) effects on Cerro Grande fire on LANL and the environment. The Committee would produce fact sheets for the public and update the Environmental Restoration workbook to include materials relevant to monitoring and surveillance activities.

F. Environmental Restoration Committee

Dr. Berting, Committee Chair, announced the workshop on Material Disposal Areas to be held on June 27 from 4:00 to 7:30 PM at the Los Alamos Area Office. Board members and the public are invited to attend.

The next Committee meeting is June 11. The committee will develop their Work Plan for FY2002.

G. Community Outreach Committee

Mr. Johnston, Committee Chair, reported on outreach activities including newspaper advertising for this Board meeting and he will be on a KRSN radio show on Friday, June 1. The Board website has been updated to include Board and Committee minutes.

The Committee is considering advertising to recruit new Board members.

H. Budget Committee

Mr. Jordan, Committee Chair, was not present at this meeting. Mr. Johnston asked Ms. DuBois to make the report. Ms. DuBois said that the Budget Committee would meet in the next month to align the budget categories and refine the projections for the rest of the fiscal year.

Mr. Johnston asked the Board members and Committee Chairs to propose any projected expenses between now and the rest of the year.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Taylor referred to page nine of the Board's Bylaws stating that the Committees are to meet in public locations. Dr. Berting said that the Bylaws Committee is considering revising several sections including this one. Mr. Johnston said that Committee meeting times could be posted on the Board website.

Board members brainstormed ideas for the June agenda to be held at Cochiti Pueblo. Mr. Gonzales is willing to contact Cochiti Pueblo to enlist their participation in this meeting.

Potential topics might include

- Post Cerro Grande fire contamination of Cochiti Lake
- Recent LANL sampling of sediment and surface water impacting Cochiti
- Native American Risk Scenario, uses of plants, soils, etc.
- Update on Risk Assessment Corporation report on results of fire effects

Mr. Gale suggested that the newspaper advertisements describe the Board meeting agenda including fact sheets so reporters could generate press releases. He recommended that the agenda order be changed to include the presentations, public comment, and then Board business. Dr. Taylor suggested that the ER Committee sponsor the topic of Native American risk scenario and the Monitoring and Surveillance Committee sponsor the topic of possible contamination in Cochiti Lake.

The Board adjourned at 9:00 PM.

The minutes are an accurate and complete summary of the matters discussed and conclusions reached at the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board meeting held on May 30, 2001.

Certified by:

Jim Johnston, Chair Pro Tem

Date