

**MINUTES  
of the  
FIFTH MEETING  
of the  
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

**November 3, 2017  
State Capitol, Room 321  
Santa Fe**

The fifth meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee (RHMC) was called to order by Senator Jeff Steinborn, chair, on Friday, November 3, 2017, at 9:07 a.m. in Room 321 of the State Capitol.

**Present**

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Chair  
Rep. Carl Trujillo, Vice Chair  
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown  
Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros  
Rep. David M. Gallegos  
Sen. Gay G. Kernan  
Sen. Carroll H. Leavell  
Sen. Richard C. Martinez  
Rep. Angelica Rubio  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana  
Rep. Larry R. Scott

**Absent**

Sen. Ron Griggs

**Advisory Members**

Sen. Gregory A. Baca  
Rep. Stephanie Garcia Richard  
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert  
Rep. James E. Smith

Sen. William F. Burt  
Sen. William H. Payne  
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez  
Rep. Nick L. Salazar  
Sen. Clemente Sanchez  
Rep. Jim R. Trujillo

**Guest Legislator**

Rep. Dennis J. Roch

**Minutes Approval**

Because the committee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

**Staff**

Shawna Casebier, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Monica Ewing, Staff Attorney, LCS  
Nancy Martinez, Staff, LCS

**Guests**

The guest list is in the meeting file.

**Handouts**

Handouts and other written materials are in the meeting file.

**Friday, November 3**

Senator Steinborn welcomed members of the committee and the audience, and committee members introduced themselves.

**Methane Capture/Venting and Flaring**

Ken McQueen, secretary, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), addressed the release of natural gas by venting and flaring. He said that "surface waste", in the context of oil and gas law, is defined in Section 70-2-3 NMSA 1978 and relates to the loss of gas through venting and flaring. The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) of the EMNRD has promulgated rules (19.15.18.12 NMAC) related to venting and flaring, and those rules generally prohibit venting and flaring except for the 60 days following completion of a well. The rules provide for an operator to apply for an exception to the venting and flaring prohibition. Secretary McQueen noted that operators sometimes apply for an exception because of the possibility of delays that would necessitate venting or flaring, and often, exceptions that are granted are never used.

The gas capture work group recommended, and the OCD implemented, changes to venting and flaring reporting rules. The work group suggested that data on venting and flaring be reported separately and that the data be compared to data from other states. Since October 19, 2015, the OCD has required operators to report venting and flaring data in production reports to the OCD. Secretary McQueen noted that there are now seven categories of non-transported volumes of gas reported to the OCD, which allows analysis of gas lost to venting and flaring. As of 2015, operators are also required to submit with their applications to drill a well a gas capture plan that shows how venting and flaring will be minimized.

Venting and flaring are done for several reasons, but technological advances have reduced the need to vent and flare. Historically, in northwest New Mexico, a significant amount of methane was released through natural gas drilling activity. A new drilling method, horizontal drilling, has mostly eliminated the need for venting and flaring in that area. In southeastern New Mexico, most of the gas produced is marketable, and any need to flare is usually based on infrastructure issues and lack of gas processing capacity.

Regarding lost revenue attributable to vented and flared gas volumes, Secretary McQueen said that lost gas royalties to the state are valued at \$11.5 million or \$8.6 million, depending on the royalty percentage used. Although the estimated lost royalties appear significant, approximately \$1 billion was paid in royalties in 2016.

Secretary McQueen said that between June 2016 and July 2017, the volume of vented gas decreased by 56%. He added that flared volumes have also decreased during that time period by 54%. He noted, referring to slide 12 in his materials, that although the number of rigs in the state has continued to increase, the volume amount of flared and vented gas has continually decreased. Senate Memorial (SM) 102 (2017) requested information on vented volumes on Indian, federal and state lands, and slides 13, 14 and 15 in his materials show volumes of vented and flared gas by basins in the state.

Jon Goldstein, director of regulatory and legislative affairs for the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), said that the EDF uses economics and science to find solutions to issues such as methane gas release. He said that as much as one-half of all gas released is due to leaks. In New Mexico, almost 600,000 tons of methane is wasted per year, which translates into approximately \$28 million in tax and royalty revenue lost.

Mr. Goldstein said that the image on slide 3 of his materials shows a methane hot spot over the San Juan Basin. Scientists analyzed the spot from the air and the ground and found that the hot spot could be attributed to leaks at wells in the area. Leaked methane and other pollutants create ozone and smog issues. Eddy and San Juan counties have significant ozone issues, which lead to asthma and other health concerns. The EDF is working with oil and gas companies and academic researchers to determine how to fix the problem of methane release to benefit the environment, oil and gas companies and the public. Some of the leading oil and gas producers in the country have participated in the studies.

Mr. Goldstein said that Colorado implemented a methane rule in 2014 in cooperation with the EDF and three oil and gas producers: Encana Corporation; Noble Energy, Inc.; and Anadarko Petroleum Corporation. In the week prior to the RHMC meeting, 10 of the largest oil and gas producers announced efforts to reduce methane emissions. Rules like the Colorado rule can encourage producers to inspect wells and identify leaks, which can often be fixed using a wrench. Since implementation of Colorado's rule, reported leaks have decreased by 75%, and the state has not received any operator complaints about the rule. Many states taking action on methane release are "red" states. Wyoming requires quarterly leak inspections, which has resulted in improved air quality.

Bill Jordan, senior policy advisor and government relations officer for New Mexico Voices for Children, said that the EDF analysis of the state's oil and gas industry reveals enough waste to meet the annual heating and cooking needs of all homes in New Mexico. With the royalty revenue the state is losing, an additional 5,000 more children could be enrolled in early education programs. State and federal action is needed to address methane release and the smog-

forming pollutants released with methane. Sensible rules requiring inspection could help curb methane waste.

Ryan Flynn, executive director of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (NMOGA), said that flaring is the burning of gas that cannot be processed or sold, and it mitigates against pressure buildup. When an operator flares gas, approximately 98% of hydrocarbons are burned and converted to carbon dioxide. Flaring is preferred to venting, which is the direct release of hydrocarbons into the air. Operators also want to reduce emissions and increase gas capture. Operators have the greatest economic incentive to reduce release of gas. Methane emissions are decreasing in the United States and in New Mexico even as gas production is at an all-time high. Natural gas production increased by 52% between 2011 and 2016. Greenhouse gas emissions in the state are down by 33% from 2012 levels, largely because of conversion to other sources of energy.

Mr. Flynn said that the OCD has existing limits on flaring and requires reporting of vented and flared volumes. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also has two relevant rules: OOOO or "quad O", and OOOOa or "quad Oa". Quad O, which was finalized in 2012, regulates hydraulic fracturing at gas wells and requires leak detection and repair. Quad Oa regulates methane as a greenhouse gas and extends to hydraulically fractured oil wells. The federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a methane and waste prevention rule, and recent attempts to stay the rule have been unsuccessful.

Mr. Flynn said that the oil and gas industry is the largest private employer in the state, employing 105,000 New Mexicans. The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission estimates that the BLM rule could result in the loss of more than 5,500 jobs. The NMOGA also commissioned a study by the New Mexico Tax Research Institute on the effect of oil and gas regulations. The study estimated that the state would lose \$105 million in royalties due to the BLM's rule. Mr. Flynn said added that New Mexico is the fifth-largest oil producer in the nation and seventh-largest natural gas producer.

Committee members asked questions and made comments on the following.

***Methane hot spot in San Juan County.*** Public forums on the topic have taken place. Some data show that the hot spot is primarily located in Colorado, where rules are more restrictive, but scientists report that the majority of the pollution is from New Mexico. Certain geographic structures emit methane spontaneously, and that could be a source of the hot spot. Time-lapse images of the area could help identify the source of the hot spot.

***Health concerns related to pollution.*** Volatile organic compounds and other emissions lead to smog and related health issues. Ozone is an issue in the Mountain West because of natural features, including altitude.

***Marginal wells and associated costs.*** Marginal wells are not defined in the OCD's rules, but they are considered wells, and they produce 10 barrels or less per day. High- and low-production wells are governed by the same regulations. New Mexico has approximately 30,000 marginal wells, and additional costs to those operators could cause discontinuation of use of the wells.

***SM 102 (2017).*** SM 102 requested the EMNRD to report to the legislature on the amount of natural gas wasted through venting and flaring. The EMNRD plans to complete the report before the 2018 session.

***Technological advances in methane detection.*** Colorado rules and federal rules include pathways for innovation in detecting and monitoring methane emissions.

***Development of Colorado's rules.*** Two of the industry participants in the process were facing consequences, including fines for violations.

Dan Lorimer, a representative of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, noted that despite the EMNRD's and industry's confidence that the issue of methane emissions will resolve itself, he believes it should be dealt with directly because it will not resolve itself.

#### **Update: Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Chromium Plume Cleanup**

Butch Tongate, secretary, Department of Environment (NMED), said that addressing the chromium plume at LANL is a top priority. The NMED is working cooperatively with LANL, and they meet monthly to discuss environmental issues.

Bruce Yurdin, director of the Water Protection Division, NMED, explained that in his materials, "Crin" refers to a chromium injection well and "Ex" refers to an extraction well. He referred to a map on slide 3 of his materials, which identifies areas relevant to his presentation, and to a map on slide 4, which shows the plume's estimated boundary and the sites of various wells. Mr. Yurdin explained how the NMED is working with LANL and the federal Department of Energy (DOE) on implementing measures to address the plume. Wells to test and extract water from the plume have been drilled, and water in Los Alamos County and surrounding areas is being monitored. He showed the direction of ground water flow on a map and how that affects the spread of the plume. Finally, Mr. Yurdin explained the next steps the NMED will take in its efforts to address the plume with LANL.

A committee member raised the issue of the NMED's relationship to LANL. The NMED works on issues related to LANL through the DOE's Los Alamos Field Office, which oversees LANL contractors.

Doug Hintze, manager of environmental management for the DOE's Los Alamos Field Office, said that the office's two highest priorities are addressing improperly remediated waste drums and the chromium plume. He invited the members to visit LANL to see the work being

done on the plume. He said that the DOE ensures that issues are addressed at LANL through his office's contract with the LANL contractor operator.

Danny Katzman, technical program manager of Los Alamos National Security, said that he is the lead scientist for the DOE on the chromium plume project. On slide 3 of his materials, he showed the footprint of the plume and the areas from which chromium was released. He said that historical records suggest that the chromium that was released was hexavalent, and not trivalent, chromium.

Mr. Katzman said that the plume is approximately one mile long and one-half mile wide, and he explained the three water zones in the area. The water supply well is about one-fourth of a mile from the edge of the plume. The discovery well drilled in 2006 is referred to as R-28. All of the other wells have been drilled since then. All of the wells are monitored quarterly, and in 2014, the results started showing increasing concentrations of chromium, so LANL and the DOE pursued an interim measure to establish a plan of action leading to a final remedy. The interim measure aims to manage any growth of the downgrading edge of the plume. Six injection wells have been placed, and work is continuing to ensure that the action of injection does not spread the plume. The consent order with the NMED allows for the department to review LANL's work on the plume and to accept or propose modifications to that work.

Committee members asked questions and made comments on the following.

***Communities affected by the plume.*** Residents of Los Alamos County and Pueblo of San Ildefonso are most affected.

***Pump and treat water injection.*** Injection through June 2017 was done at Crin-4 and Crin-5. This involved injection of 30 gallons of treated water per minute. Three months after injection stopped, testing showed reduced chromium levels. The DOE and NMED regard injection as a good treatment method.

***Mapping the plume.*** Estimation and models are used to map the boundaries of the plume. Placing additional monitoring wells on the southern border will require working with the Pueblo of San Ildefonso to ensure that all parties approve of a well's location. Land that is sacred to the pueblo is in the area of the southern edge of the plume, so special drilling methods were used to minimize ground disturbances in that area.

***Drinking water safety.*** Drinking water standards are based on the assumption that a person drinks two liters of water with a certain chromium level for 70 years.

***Cost of drilling monitoring wells.*** The cost is approximately \$3 million to \$3.5 million per well, depending on the well's location.

***Chromium removed through extraction.*** Thirteen kilograms of an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 kilograms of total chromium have been extracted from the plume.

Members of the public made the following comments.

Joni Arends, a representative of Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, submitted a report outlining her organization's concerns. She expressed the need for a contingency plan in the event that drinking water is contaminated.

Jay Coghlan, a representative of Nuclear Watch New Mexico, said that at one point, LANL asked for but was denied a waiver from the NMED requirement that LANL monitor drinking water. He stressed the importance of knowing the boundaries of the chromium plume and said that many potential financial penalties have been forgiven by the NMED.

Glenn Bedell informed the committee of a technology he helped develop with Richard Guadalupe MacDonald that involves using a plant to address environmental concerns, including the removal of arsenic. He presented information on a study he performed in connection with the Gold King Mine spill.

#### **Proposed Memorial in Support of the U.S. Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board**

Senator Steinborn provided information about the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, which he said is important to ensuring the safety of the state's national laboratories. Current efforts to eliminate the board are under way. He proposed a draft memorial for endorsement by the committee to urge Congress to support and fund the board. As an alternative, he proposed that the committee send a letter to the state's congressional delegation that is substantively similar to the memorial.

A committee member asked why the board is being considered for elimination. Senator Steinborn said that some government contractors believe the board presents an obstacle and is unnecessary. However, Senator Steinborn noted, the ongoing safety issues at LANL are the type of issue the board is intended to oversee. The board is the only independent entity overseeing the laboratories. The board makes reports and referrals to the National Nuclear Safety Administration and the DOE.

A member expressed the need for further discussion of the issue before sending a committee letter. Another member suggested that those members who support sending the letter could sign on to it individually.

#### **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Funding**

Eletha Trujillo, WIPP coordinator for the Energy Conservation and Management Division of the EMNRD, said that her division oversees transport of material to WIPP. She provided a copy of the EMNRD's assistance agreement with the DOE, which documents the award of funding to the EMNRD for the second year of a five-year budget. She also provided a copy of the five-year budget, noting that the budget has decreased and that shipments to WIPP lapsed

when WIPP was partially closed. WIPP would previously receive 25 to 30 shipments per week. That number decreased for a time to between five and eight shipments per week and is now approximately eight shipments per week. The new budget was developed using current projections of shipments.

Ms. Trujillo added that her program works with the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department, the Department of Public Safety, the NMED, the Department of Health and the Fire Marshal Division of the Public Regulation Commission.

Committee members asked questions and made comments on the following.

***Effect of WIPP's partial closure on the budget.*** Inspectors from the EMNRD did not travel as much when in-state shipments were reduced, but the department continued to conduct trainings so that part of the budget was less affected.

***Number of shipments to WIPP.*** It is unlikely that more than 20 shipments to WIPP per week will ever resume; however, shipments will likely increase to approximately 15 to 20 per week in the coming years. The reduced number of shipments to WIPP is based on the air quality concerns at the facility.

***Travel routes for trucks delivering to WIPP.*** It appears to be safer to use Texas State Highway 176 into New Mexico for transport. Members requested copies of maps showing transportation routes.

### **Interim Spent Fuel Storage**

John Heaton, chair of the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA), updated the committee on the proposed centralized consolidated interim spent fuel storage facility. He noted that just 13 states in the country do not house nuclear facilities. The DOE has to take title to spent nuclear fuel, and the interim storage facility would be a safe way to store the fuel before it is placed in permanent storage. Regarding the need for interim storage, Mr. Heaton noted that Oak Ridge National Laboratory completed a study predicting that over \$40 billion could be saved by 2040 with the use of interim storage. The use of interim storage also creates an opportunity for the scientific community to devise other uses for spent fuel.

Mr. Heaton described the preparation of an empty canister used for interim storage. Spent fuel rods are approximately the diameter of a person's finger. Canisters are filled under water, and the tops of the canisters are welded on. Once filled, canisters are transferred for storage in a cask array on a concrete pad. In the first five years, stored spent fuel decays rapidly and is completely decayed within 200 years.

The ELEA considered many canister manufacturers and decided that Holtec International manufactures the safest and most secure storage system. The company has a good financial record and is receiving international recognition. Holtec's storage technology allows spent fuel to



be stored directly without repackaging and includes several features that protect from radiation exposure. Licenses would have to be obtained to use Holtec's system, and a license application for storage at the proposed site was submitted on March 31, 2017. The application proposed storage of 500 canisters, but that number will likely be amended to allow for storage of up to 10,000 canisters. The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) provided comments on the application, and the ELEA is in the process of answering those comments. Afterwards, a public hearing will be held.

Proposed benefits of the storage facility include 10 years of construction activity and 350 jobs at the storage site. If repackaging of spent fuel is added to the work performed at the site, additional jobs would be created.

Committee members asked questions and made comments on the following.

***Legislative aspect of the proposed facility.*** Legislation is not necessary, and the DOE is not involved with projects that are privately funded.

***Other interim storage facilities.*** There are other similar facilities currently in operation, and one on the site of the former San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station has been built but is not yet storing fuel.

***Mineral rights associated with the proposed site.*** Rights will remain intact and would not be affected by the site.

***Accidents in transporting spent fuel.*** Mr. Heaton reported that he is unaware of any accidents having occurred in over 40 years of transporting spent fuel. The Holtec shipping cask has been certified by the NRC. A representative of Sandia National Laboratories has made presentations on transport of spent fuel.

***Community safeguards.*** Financial assurance will be required from Holtec for potential cleanup and remediation needs. The NRC requires such assurances.

***Community input.*** Most civic groups in the affected areas support the proposed project. Legislators that represent the areas have reached out to residents. Overall, Lea County residents support the project, although some have said they do not.

Ms. Trujillo explained that her division focuses on the safe transport of spent nuclear fuel. Federal law requires spent fuel to be stored at a monitored facility. She said that the Western Governors' Association policy requires the DOE to follow the WIPP transportation plan. The intention is for states to work collaboratively with the DOE, the railroad industry and other involved private entities and to ensure that states are actively engaged in developing safe waste transportation plans. She emphasized the importance of New Mexico being represented any time the transportation of spent nuclear waste is considered, and she suggested that New Mexico

should have representation on the blue ribbon commission that reports to the DOE on related issues.

Committee members asked questions and made comments on the following.

***Importance of transportation issues.*** Even if New Mexico does not ultimately store spent fuel, it is still important that New Mexico consider transportation, which could happen in-state.

***Status of the interim storage project.*** A decision to create the interim storage facility has not yet been made. It is a federal-level policy decision.

Noel Marquez, a representative of Alliance for Environmental Strategies (AES), said that jobs related to radioactive waste are not healthy or sustainable and his alliance is concerned about the risks of an interim storage facility. The land and his community are sacred and should be protected, but that position seems to be disregarded. About 50% to 60% of the population in the area of the proposed facility is Hispanic, and information about the proposed facility is not provided in Spanish. He believes that there is a lack of truthful information about the risks of contamination and the health hazards associated with radioactive waste.

Rose Gardner, a representative of AES, said that the safety of all children, including unborn children, is paramount. Radioactive waste exposure is known to cause cancer, and she has spoken with people who live near a site in New England that is affected by radioactive materials and who are experiencing illness. The federal government should identify safe and permanent ways to store waste, and the consent of affected communities should be obtained. She also noted dangers associated with moving waste more than once and with terrorist activities in areas where waste is stored.

Members of the public made the following comments.

Karen Hadden, a representative of the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development, or "SEED" Coalition, said that the amount of waste being considered for storage —100,000 tons — is the equivalent of all of the most dangerous waste from all nuclear reactors in the country. The risks of storing and moving that waste are significant, and such activity is unprecedented. Based on the DOE's estimates of waste shipments, at least 12 accidents should be expected. She added that the testing of casks has been inadequate and is based mostly on computer modeling.

Tom "Smitty" Smith said that people are guessing that a transportation solution will be developed rather than ensuring one is developed first. Damage from a spill would be significant, especially if it occurred in an urban area. Hosting the interim storage facility for only 150 jobs does not make sense, especially because it is likely that it will be difficult to identify an entity to move the waste to permanent storage in the future.

Mr. Bedell agreed with Mr. Smith's comments and noted that there are environmental justice issues, especially for affected communities of color.

Susan Gordon, a representative of the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment, said that there are 15,000 uranium mines in western states that need to be remediated before New Mexico begins storing spent fuel. Waste should be stored in a way that prevents it from ever being used for a nuclear weapon. The federal Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 would have to be amended to allow New Mexico to receive incentives in connection with the storage facility.

Deborah Reade noted that public participation processes are inadequate, and materials should be provided in Spanish. It is difficult to view the index of records related to the project that are stored at the NMED.

John Buchser, a representative of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, has concerns about ground water and the dangers posed by storms that could bring significant amounts of water to an area and allow the spread of toxic waste.

**Update: Kirtland Air Force Base Fuel Spill Status and Legacy Military Waste Disposal**

Diane Agnew, a hydrologist with the NMED, said that she is the lead on the Kirtland jet fuel spill project. The project is managed through a corrective action process, part of which includes the submittal of a federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) facility investigation report (RFI). The completion of an RFI is an important milestone and is the beginning of the project's final phase. The NMED will review the RFI, and when an agreement is reached, the corrective measures evaluation (CME) will take place. The process is complex and includes risk assessments. She described the actions being undertaken voluntarily by the United States Air Force (USAF) while the RFI and CME processes are under way. Work plans will be available for review by the public.

Ms. Agnew referred to a map on slide 6 of her materials, which shows the location of the jet fuel plume and drinking water supplies. She said the plume sits on top of two semipermeable sediment layers and clay.

Although some members of the public have requested to be involved in meetings related to the RFI, Ms. Agnew said it is important that conversations related to the report can take place without distractions to allow development of resolutions. Public outreach related to the project is ongoing.

Kate Lynnes, a senior advisor with the USAF, said that the risk assessment report has been submitted to the NMED and is under review. She reviewed the report's key findings with respect to off-site locations and on-site locations. In the process of preparing the report, data were used to assess exposure to toxins. The report also considers current and future uses of affected land. The NMED provides guidance on assessing the risks related to exposure in residential and recreational land-use scenarios. Regarding screening levels, Ms. Lynnes said that

once levels are developed and used to assess various sites, no further action is necessary if a site's contamination concentration is below the relevant screening level. If a screening level is exceeded at a site, however, cleanup efforts are not necessarily immediately warranted.

Ms. Lynnes noted that the next public meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2017, and a "deep dive assessment" will be conducted at that meeting.

Members of the public made the following comments.

Dave McCoy, a representative of Citizen Action New Mexico, said that the legislature passed a joint memorial four years ago to request an independent review of the Kirtland spill, but that review never happened. Such a review is more necessary now than ever. An additional report, not referenced in the presentation, raised concerns with parts of the RFI. The RCRA requires assessment of the extent of contamination, and it is unclear how far the spill has moved vertically and horizontally. Although 300 million gallons of water have been extracted and cleaned, there could still be another million grams of ethylene dibromide to be removed. He said that 53 of the monitoring wells are submerged and are useless in monitoring water. He provided links to the additional report he referenced in materials provided to the committee.

Dr. Eric Nuttal said that the Kirtland spill is much more serious than it is made out to be, as are the dangers of drinking water contaminated with ethylene dibromide. He said that independent review and oversight of the entire project are needed.

Committee members asked questions and made comments on the following.

***Involvement of New Mexico's congressional delegation.*** The delegation has been contacted many times about the issue.

***Independent oversight and review.*** Technical working group meetings include representatives of the EPA, the United States Geological Survey, local authorities and others. The meetings and participation in them are difficult issues because open discussion needs to be possible, and the public would like to understand the process of developing a work plan. Some would like to review minutes and other reports of what takes place at technical working group meetings. There is interest in revisiting a memorial on the issue.

***Need for additional monitoring wells.*** The USAF does not believe an additional \$13 million should be spent to drill more wells.

***Scope of the spill.*** The mass of the contaminant spilled is not known. It is possible that the spill will travel more quickly as it travels through different media.

***Community outreach.*** There have been technical workshops at which experts, data and reports were available. The meetings were productive but not well-attended. Additional

outreach includes phone calls, lunches with interested parties, school visits, emails and community forums. The NMED and the USAF are open to working with communities.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business for the 2017 interim, the fifth meeting of the RHMC was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.