

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

**May 29, 2024
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee (RHMC) was called to order by Representative Joanne J. Ferrary, chair, on May 29, 2024 at 9:31 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair
Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Vice Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Rep. Christine Chandler
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

Absent

Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

Advisory Members

Sen. Harold Pope

Rep. John Block
Sen. Ron Griggs
Rep. William A. Hall
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson

Staff

Paul Estok, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Tom Kricka, Staff Attorney, LCS
Sara Wiedmaier, Researcher, LCS
Michel Ramirez, Law Intern, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Wednesday, May 29

Welcome and Introductions (9:31 a.m.)

Representative Ferrary welcomed the committee, and committee members and staff introduced themselves.

Discussion of the 2024 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (9:35 a.m.)

The members of the RHMC discussed the 2024 work plan and meeting schedule. On a motion made by Senator Steinborn, seconded by Representative Sariñana and without objection, the committee voted to approve the 2024 work plan and meeting schedule. The proposed 2024 work plan and meeting schedule can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=5/29/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

Overview of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's (EMNRD's) Regulations Related to Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (9:54 a.m.)

Eletha Trujillo, chief, Hazardous Waste Planning Bureau, EMNRD, provided an overview of the EMNRD's role in regulations related to radioactive and hazardous materials, including Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) site shipments, funding and activities and participation on the Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force, the WIPP working group and other radioactive and hazardous materials related working groups and planning committees. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=5/29/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

Overview of the Office of Natural Resources Trustee's Role in Restoring Resources Affected by the Release of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (10:30 a.m.)

Maggie Hart Stebbins, natural resources trustee, Office of Natural Resources Trustee (ONRT), and Kate Girard, executive director, ONRT, discussed the ONRT's work on assessing damages to natural resources in the state, obtaining compensation from responsible parties and providing funds for the restoration of damaged natural resources. Currently, the ONRT is working on restoration of the Los Alamos National Laboratory site, the White Sands Test Facility and the Rio Algom Quivira mill and mine sites. The ONRT is anticipating work on the

restoration of natural resources affected by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at Cannon Air Force Base and Holloman Air Force Base and uranium mining and milling in the Grants Mining District. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=5/29/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

Overview of the State Land Office's (SLO's) Regulation of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (11:15 a.m.)

Stephanie Garcia Richard, commissioner of public lands, SLO; Greg Bloom, assistant commissioner of mineral resources, SLO; Chase Henzler, research and policy analyst, SLO; and Joey Keefe, assistant commissioner of communications, SLO, discussed the SLO's legal and regulatory framework, the status of Holtec International's interim storage facility, remediation and reclamation efforts in oil and gas fields and state land affected by uranium mining. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=5/29/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

Overview of the Department of Environment's (NMED's) Regulation of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (1:30 p.m.)

Sydney Lienemann, Ph.D., deputy secretary of administration, NMED, and Santiago Rodriguez, chief, Radiation Control Bureau, Environmental Protection Division, NMED, provided an update on the NMED's activities relating to its regulation of radioactive and hazardous materials, including Los Alamos National Laboratory's permit renewal and 2016 consent order, the hexavalent chromium plume cleanup, the WIPP operating permit renewal, PFAS cleanup efforts, naturally occurring radioactive materials licensing in the oil and gas industry and the Kirtland Air Force Base cleanup. The NMED also made the following legislative proposals: a ban on non-essential PFAS, amendment of the Hazardous Waste Act to allow the state to regulate toxic substances independent of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, provisions to address contaminated abandoned sites and initiatives for the reuse and regeneration of materials and products. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=5/29/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

Public Comment (2:28 p.m.)

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.