

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

**November 12, 2021
State Capitol, Senate Chambers
Santa Fe**

The fourth meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was called to order by Senator Jeff Steinborn, chair, on November 12, 2021 at 9:15 a.m. in the Senate Chambers of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Chair
Rep. Christine Chandler, Vice Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

Absent

Sen. Gay G. Kernan
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto

Advisory Members

Sen. Harold Pope

Sen. Ron Griggs
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez
Sen. Gregg Schmedes
Rep. James G. Townsend

Staff

Shawna Casebier, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Tom Kricka, LCS
Sara Wiedmaier, LCS

Minutes Approval

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

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.

Friday, November 12

Welcome and Introductions (9:15 a.m.)

Senator Steinborn welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

Department of Environment (NMED) Cleanup Actions Update (9:17 a.m.)

Rebecca Roose, deputy secretary, NMED; Chris Catechis, acting director, Resource Protection Division, NMED; and Rick Shean, bureau chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau, NMED, provided an update on the NMED's cleanup actions. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/RHMC%2011221%20Item%201%20NMED%20Cleanup%20Actions%20Update%20Presentation.pdf>.

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Operations and Updates (10:19 a.m.)

Frances Chadwick, staff director, LANL, and Kathy Keith, director, Community Partnerships Office, LANL, provided an update on LANL's operations. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/RHMC%2011221%20Item%202%20LANL%20Update.pdf>.

LANL Legacy Waste Cleanup Update (11:10 a.m.)

Michael A. Mikolanis, manager, Environmental Management, Los Alamos Field Office, United States Department of Energy (DOE), and Dave Nickless, director, Office of Completion Project Delivery, Environmental Management, Los Alamos Field Office, DOE, discussed the DOE's cleanup of legacy waste at LANL. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/RHMC%2011221%20Item%203%20LANL%20Legacy%20Environmental%20Cleanup.pdf>.

Weapons Grade Plutonium Transportation Concerns (12:20 p.m.)

Anna C. Hansen, commissioner, Santa Fe County, and Cynthia Weehler, co-chair, 285ALL, discussed concerns regarding the transportation of weapons grade plutonium. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/RHMC%20111221%20Item%204%20Weapons%20Grade%20Plutonium%20Transportation%20Concerns.pdf>.

Motion to Send Letters Regarding the Transportation of Weapons Grade Plutonium (1:04 p.m.)

On a motion made by Representative Ferrary and seconded by Representative Sariñana, the committee voted to send a letter to the governor, the NMED and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and a letter to the appropriate federal agencies requesting more information about the transportation of weapons grade plutonium.

Approval of Minutes (1:07 p.m.)

On a motion made, seconded and duly passed, the minutes of the September 20, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comment (1:28 p.m.)

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

Community Concerns About the Resumption of Plutonium Pit Production at LANL (1:48 p.m.)

Greg Mello, executive director, Los Alamos Study Group, discussed with the committee community concerns about the resumption of plutonium pit production at LANL. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/RHMC%20111221%20Item%205%20Los%20Alamos%20Study%20Group%20Presentation.pdf>.

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Update (2:20 p.m.)

Dr. Jonathan Plaue, acting associate technical director, Nuclear Facilities Infrastructure and Projects, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, provided an update on the work of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/RHMC%20111221%20Item%206%20Defense%20Nuclear%20Facilities%20Safety%20Board.pdf>.

Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Update (3:04 p.m.)

Robert Hull, chair, Risk Evaluation and Management Committee, Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board, provided an update on the work of the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/RHMC%20111221%20Item%207%20Northern%20New%20Mexico%20Citizens'%20Advisory%20Board.pdf>.

Consideration of Legislation for Endorsement (3:38 p.m.)

Committee members discussed legislation for endorsement. The legislation endorsed by the committee can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/endorsed_legislation?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Year=2022.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.