

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

**October 15, 2024
Tays Event Center
New Mexico State University-Alamogordo
2400 North Scenic Drive
Alamogordo**

The fourth meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was called to order by Representative Joanne J. Ferrary, chair, on October 15, 2024 at 9:17 a.m. at the Tays Event Center at New Mexico State University-Alamogordo in Alamogordo.

Present

Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair
Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Vice Chair
Rep. John Block*
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez

Absent

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

Advisory Members

Sen. Ron Griggs

Rep. William A. Hall II
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Sen. Harold Pope

*Appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate as a voting member for this meeting only.

Staff

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

Minutes Approval

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.

Tuesday, October 15

Welcome and Introductions (9:32 a.m.)

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

Welcome and Status Update (9:39 a.m.)

Antonio Salinas, Jr., vice president for business and finance, New Mexico State University-Alamogordo, welcomed the committee and gave a brief general update on the current status of and plans for developments at the university.

Issues Involving Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) (9:48 a.m.)

James Kenney, secretary, Department of Environment (NMED), presented an overview of PFAS issues facing New Mexico and the United States. The secretary described what PFAS are, the health issues posed by exposure to PFAS, where exposure is most often found and specifics of where PFAS contamination has occurred in New Mexico, as well as current state and federal attempts at regulating and dealing with PFAS contamination. Maggie Hart Stebbins, natural resources trustee, Office of Natural Resources Trustee (ONRT), highlighted the ONRT's efforts to assess damage to the state's natural resources from PFAS contamination. She discussed the contamination caused by Holloman Air Force Base and Cannon Air Force Base, explaining how the pollution is being dealt with by the ONRT and other state and federal agencies. Elena Fernandez, project specialist, Amigos Bravos, detailed exposure pathways for PFAS contamination and the dangers to public health that exposure to PFAS could present. She called attention to specific instances of ground water contamination and described current PFAS removal and destruction methods. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=10/15/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

Kirtland Air Force Base Fuel Spill Cleanup (11:37 a.m.)

J.D. Nance, chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau, Resource Protection Division, NMED, provided background and the history of the fuel spill at Kirtland Air Force Base. Mr. Nance described the ongoing clean-up efforts and the path forward for the NMED and the fuel spill cleanup. Kelsey Bicknell, environmental manager, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, related more history of the spill and described past and present efforts by stakeholders to remediate the spill. She also reported on the path forward for all parties involved in the clean-up process. Ryan J. Wortman, physical scientist, Installation Support Section, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, provided a detailed time line of the spill, as well as detailed scientific descriptions of the fuel's components and a description of the path forward

from the perspective of the United States Air Force. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=10/15/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

Update on Federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Legislation (1:00 p.m.)

Mary Martinez White, member, Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, updated the committee on the consortium's efforts to seek reauthorization of the federal RECA legislation. Ms. Martinez White detailed the consortium's participation in a three-day trip to Washington, DC, to protest inaction by Congress and to meet with legislative leaders to seek their assistance in passing a bill to assist downwinders. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=10/15/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

White Sands Test Facility Cleanup (1:27 p.m.)

Rick Shean, director, Resource Protection Division, NMED, briefed the committee on the regulatory history of the White Sands Test Facility cleanup and provided a detailed time line on the specific areas of contamination. Mr. Shean listed the corrective actions taken in the past and described the path forward for the cleanup. Ms. Stebbins gave a natural resource damage assessment of ground water injuries on state trust lands. She provided detailed information on the extent of the plume of contaminated ground water and on the status of negotiations between state and federal authorities regarding natural resource injuries. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=10/15/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

Monitoring of Drinking Water for Hazardous Materials (2:11 p.m.)

Andy Jochems, source water protection team lead, Drinking Water Bureau, NMED, provided an overview of contaminants in regulated public water sources, current and future regulatory standards, sampling of public water systems and the results of that testing. Mr. Jochems also provided information on the current treatment technologies to remove PFAS from drinking water. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=10/15/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.