

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

**October 15, 2025
New Mexico State University
Barbara Hubbard Room
Pan American Center
1810 East University Avenue
Las Cruces**

The fourth meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was called to order by Senator Jeff Steinborn, chair, on October 15, 2025 at 9:23 a.m. in the Barbara Hubbard Room of the Pan American Center at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces.

Present

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Chair
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Vice Chair
Rep. John Block*
Sen. Crystal Brantley*
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana*
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton*

Absent

Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Sen. James G. Townsend

Advisory Members

Sen. Shannon D. Pinto

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

Staff

Paul Estok, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sara Wiedmaier, Researcher, LCS
Em Green, Staff Attorney, 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, October 15

Welcome and Introductions (9:23 a.m.)

Senator Steinborn welcomed everyone and invited members of the committee, staff and audience to introduce themselves. He shared a brief history of Barbara "Mother" Hubbard, who is a local legend for the many shows and performers she brought to the NMSU Pan American Center as the former director of special events.

Welcome and Research and Projects Update (9:29 a.m.)

David Jauregui, Ph.D., P.E., dean, College of Engineering, NMSU, welcomed the committee to NMSU and provided an overview of science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs, current research and student outcomes at the College of Engineering. He shared background on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and the programs at the college that are helping to train workforces in environmental and radioactive waste management, including the Plutonium Workforce Development Initiative, a congressionally funded initiative to support plutonium pit manufacturing workforce needs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=10/15/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Topic Updates: Water Reuse, Emerging Contaminants and the National Nuclear Security Administration and United States Department of Energy's Energy Management Oversight (10:27 a.m.)

James Kenney, secretary, Department of Environment, provided an overview of water reuse and discharge options and noted the federal and state water regulations that impact the water reuse rulemaking process. He discussed the governor's 50-year water action plan, which includes development of treated brackish and produced water resources, water reuse rulemaking, improving water infrastructure and reducing leaks. He outlined the various agency roles in permitting and regulating produced water reuse and discussed recent rulemaking by the Water Quality Control Commission that banned the discharge of produced water into New Mexico's surface water or groundwater.

Mr. Kenney provided an update on implementation of the Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances Protection Act, stating that the state will need to increase investments in research to offset federal cuts and protect public health and the environment. He highlighted areas of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination in the state and programs that include a blood testing study in Clovis, a public health survey around Holloman Lake and well testing and filter system deployment in Curry and Santa Fe counties. Mr. Kenney also addressed issues around

the WIPP's storage capacity and the consent order, as the United States Department of Energy continues to prioritize waste shipments from Idaho National Laboratory, as well as a lack of sufficient funding for tritium cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=10/15/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

WIPP Annual Update (1:36 p.m.)

Carrie Ann DeAguero, chief, Hazardous Waste Transportation Planning Bureau, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, provided an overview of the WIPP and task force and working group updates. Ms. DeAguero noted staffing turnover, plans to hire program and training coordinators for the WIPP program and plans for coordinated emergency training exercises in 2026. She highlighted an estimate of the number of shipments that will be sent to the WIPP from each site across the country through next year, the majority of which are coming from Idaho National Laboratory. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=10/15/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Approval of Minutes (2:08 p.m.)

Upon a motion made and seconded, the minutes for the meeting of September 2, 2025 were approved without objection.

Public Comment (2:10 p.m.)

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

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.