

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

**May 29, 2025
State Capitol, Room 309
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee (RHMC) was called to order by Senator Jeff Steinborn, chair, on May 29, 2025 at 9:37 a.m. in Room 309 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Chair
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Vice Chair
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. James G. Townsend

Absent

Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Advisory Members

Rep. John Block
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

Sen. Crystal Brantley
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto

Staff

Paul Estok, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sara Wiedmaier, Researcher, LCS
Charlie Brewer, Staff, 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.

Thursday, May 29

Welcome and Introductions (9:37 a.m.)

Senator Steinborn welcomed everyone and invited members of the committee and staff to introduce themselves.

Discussion of the 2025 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (9:40 a.m.)

Senator Steinborn discussed the local-to-national scope and statutory authority of the committee's work in regulation and oversight of radioactive and hazardous materials in the state. The members of the RHMC discussed the 2025 work plan and meeting schedule. On a motion made by Representative Ferrary, seconded by Representative Gurrola, and without objection, the committee voted to approve the 2025 work plan and meeting schedule, as amended. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=5/29/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Overview of the Office of Natural Resources Trustee's (ONRT's) Role in Restoring Resources Affected by the Release of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (9:50 a.m.)

Maggie Hart Stebbins, natural resources trustee, ONRT, discussed the statutory responsibility of the ONRT in managing, protecting and restoring the natural resources of the state for the public benefit, especially after the release of hazardous materials. She provided an overview of the ONRT's process of assessing damages to natural resources, settlement or litigation with responsible parties, community input and compensation and implementation of restoration activities. She discussed the ONRT's past, current and anticipated damage assessments, claims and settlements and highlighted multiple restoration projects. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=5/29/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Overview of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's (EMNRD's) Regulations Related to Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (11:32 a.m.)

Eletha Trujillo, bureau chief, Hazardous Waste Planning, Energy Conservation and Management Division, EMNRD, discussed the work of the Radioactive Waste Task Force in managing and implementing the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Transportation Safety Program. She provided updates on the Legacy TRU Waste Disposal Plan, current activities of the WIPP Working Group, current funding and the number and origin of shipments to the WIPP so far this year. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=5/29/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Overview of the State Land Office's (SLO's) Regulation of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (12:21 p.m.)

Sunalei Stewart, deputy commissioner of operations, SLO, discussed the regulatory framework of the SLO in management and disposition of state trust lands. He provided an update on the status of the Holtec International "Interim" Storage Facility license, uranium legacy contamination, the SLO's policy restricting new uranium leases and remediation and reclamation efforts. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=5/29/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Overview of the Department of Environment's (NMED's) Regulation of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (2:12 p.m.)

James Kenney, secretary, NMED, discussed the NMED's regulatory authority over hazardous, radioactive and mixed wastes at various facilities in the state. He provided an update on the Los Alamos National Laboratory permit renewal and revisions to the 2016 Consent Order, WIPP permit conditions and revisions and the Kirtland Air Force Base Bulk Fuels Facility spill and suggested that the United States Department of Defense should be held accountable and properly fund remediation at Kirtland, Cannon and Holloman Air Force Bases. He highlighted major environmental bills from the 2025 session, including new funding for cleanup of neglected contaminated sites and abandoned uranium mines, a surface water discharge permitting program and regulation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which he noted has made New Mexico a national leader in the regulation of emerging contaminants. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=5/29/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Public Comment (3:56 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 4:02 p.m.