



NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE

# RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE

2024 INTERIM FINAL REPORT





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# RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE

2024 INTERIM FINAL REPORT

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## INTERIM SUMMARY





## **Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee 2024 Interim Summary**

The Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee held five meetings during the 2024 interim.

At the first meeting, held in Santa Fe, the committee heard from the Office of Natural Resources Trustee (ONRT) on the office's role in restoring resources affected by the release of radioactive and hazardous materials. The Department of Environment (NMED), the State Land Office and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provided updates on their regulations relating to radioactive and hazardous materials.

At the second meeting, held in Gallup, the NMED presented on the cleanup of the decommissioned San Juan Generating Station. Community and environmental advocates discussed uranium mine and mill site reclamation. The Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium presented on issues concerning people impacted by the Trinity nuclear test. The committee heard from the NMED and the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority on abandoned, neglected and contaminated sites around the state. Finally, local emergency management officials and the director for hazardous materials safety from BNSF Railway discussed emergency preparedness and response.

The third meeting, held in Hobbs, included a discussion of setbacks from oil and gas operations; an update on uranium enrichment at Urenco, USA; a discussion of Waste Isolation Pilot Plant operations, expansion, storage and shipments of transuranic waste; and a presentation from the NMED on produced water and water reuse. The committee also toured proposed health-protection zones from oil and gas operations in the Hobbs area.

The fourth meeting was held in Alamogordo and included discussions on issues involving per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. An update was provided by the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium on federal legislation concerning people impacted by the Trinity nuclear test. The committee also heard presentations from the NMED and the ONRT on the cleanup at the White Sands Test Facility and the monitoring of drinking water for hazardous materials. Lastly, Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) and the NMED discussed the cleanup of the jet fuel spill at KAFB.

At the final interim meeting, held in Santa Fe, the committee heard activity reports from the Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force, the State Emergency Response Commission and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and a report from the NMED on uranium reclamation. The committee also heard from advocates on plutonium pit production and off-site plutonium migration from Los Alamos National Laboratory and weapons-grade plutonium transport. In addition, the NMED discussed the chromium plume cleanup and other environmental issues in the Los Alamos area. Finally, the committee discussed, but did not endorse, legislation relating to radioactive and hazardous materials.



## WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE



**2024 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

**Members**

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

Rep. Stefani Lord  
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

**Advisory Members**

Rep. John Block  
Sen. Ron Griggs

Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Sen. Harold Pope

**Work Plan**

The Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was created in 1979 pursuant to the provisions of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Act. During the 2024 interim, pursuant to Section 74-4A-11 NMSA 1978, the committee will review, as scheduling and the availability of speakers permit:

- A. uranium mine and mill site reclamation;
- B. the establishment of a New Mexico cleanup fund for abandoned contaminated sites;
- C. issues concerning downwinders;
- D. San Juan Generating Station cleanup;
- E. issues concerning contamination from mining other than uranium mining;
- F. a report on the derailment and fire of the BNSF freight train in April 2024 at the New Mexico/Arizona border;
- G. an update on uranium enrichment;
- H. produced water and water reuse;
- I. setbacks from oil and gas operations;
- J. United States Department of Energy clean energy project at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) site;
- K. Kirtland Air Force Base fuel leak cleanup;

- L. issues involving per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including use of PFAS in drilling fluids, PFAS in consumer products, testing for and treatment of PFAS in public water systems and PFAS contamination at the Santa Fe Airport, Holloman Air Force Base and Cannon Air Force Base;
- M. a report from the State Emergency Response Commission;
- N. White Sands Test Facility cleanup;
- O. the monitoring of drinking water quality;
- P. plutonium pit production and other Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) projects;
- Q. off-site plutonium migration from LANL;
- R. WIPP capacity for handling transuranic waste over the contemplated length of plutonium pit production at LANL;
- S. weapons-grade plutonium transport;
- T. chromium plume cleanup and related environmental management issues;
- U. nitrogen and hydrogen energy production;
- V. a proposed green amendment to the Constitution of New Mexico;
- W. a report from the federal Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board;
- X. a report of the Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force; and
- Y. endorsement of legislation.

**Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee  
2024 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 29	Santa Fe
August 15	Gallup
September 13	Hobbs
October 15	Alamogordo
November 15	Santa Fe





## AGENDAS AND MINUTES



**TENTATIVE AGENDA  
for the  
FIRST MEETING  
of the  
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

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

**Wednesday, May 29**

- 9:00 a.m.           **Call to Order and Introductions**  
—Representative Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair, Radioactive and Hazardous  
Materials Committee (RHMC)
- 9:15 a.m.       (1)    **Discussion of the 2024 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule**  
—RHMC Members
- 10:00 a.m.       (2)    **Overview of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's  
Regulations Related to Radioactive and Hazardous Materials**  
—Eletha Trujillo, Chief, Hazardous Waste Planning Bureau, Energy,  
Minerals and Natural Resources Department
- 10:45 a.m.       (3)    **Overview of the Office of Natural Resources Trustee's Role in  
Restoring Resources Affected by the Release of Radioactive and  
Hazardous Materials**  
—Maggie Hart Stebbins, Natural Resources Trustee, Office of Natural  
Resources Trustee  
—Kate Girard, Executive Director, Office of Natural Resources Trustee
- 11:30 a.m.       (4)    **Overview of the State Land Office's Regulation of Radioactive and  
Hazardous Materials**  
—Stephanie Garcia Richard, Commissioner of Public Lands, State Land  
Office
- 12:15 p.m.       **Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m.       (5)    **Overview of the Department of Environment's (NMED's) Regulation of  
Radioactive and Hazardous Materials**  
—Sydney Lienemann, Ph.D., Deputy Secretary of Administration, NMED  
—Santiago Rodriguez, Chief, Radiation Control Bureau, Environmental  
Protection Division, NMED
- 2:00 p.m.       **Public Comment\***

2:30 p.m.

**Adjourn**

\*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Virtual Public Comment" section of the RHMC [web page](#).

**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](http://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.





Revised: August 14, 2024

**TENTATIVE AGENDA  
for the  
SECOND MEETING  
of the  
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

**August 15, 2024  
Student Services and Technology Center, Room 200  
University of New Mexico-Gallup  
703 Gurley Avenue  
Gallup**

**Thursday, August 15**

- 9:00 a.m.           **Call to Order and Welcome**  
—Representative Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair, Radioactive and Hazardous  
Materials Committee (RHMC)  
—Dr. Sabrina Ezzell, Chancellor, University of New Mexico-Gallup
- 9:15 a.m.           (1)   **San Juan Generating Station Cleanup**  
—Justin Ball, Bureau Chief, Ground Water Quality Bureau, Department of  
Environment (NMED)
- 10:30 a.m.           (2)   **Uranium Mine and Mill Site Reclamation**  
—Susan Gordon, Coordinator, Multicultural Alliance for a Safe  
Environment  
—Teracita Keyanna, Member, Steering Committee, Red Water Pond Road  
Community Association  
—Chris Shuey, Director, Uranium Impact Assessment Program, Southwest  
Research and Information Center
- 11:45 a.m.           **Break**
- 12:00 noon           **Working Lunch**  
(3)   **Issues Concerning Downwinders**  
—Reverend Holly Beaumont, D.Min., Organizing Director, Interfaith  
Worker Justice-New Mexico  
—Bernice Gutierrez, Member, Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium
- 12:45 p.m.           (4)   **Funding for the Cleanup of Abandoned, Neglected and Contaminated  
Sites**  
—Justin Ball, Bureau Chief, Ground Water Quality Bureau, NMED  
—Kelsey Bicknell, Environmental Manager, Albuquerque Bernalillo  
County Water Utility Authority

2:00 p.m.      (5)    **Emergency Preparedness and Response**  
—Dustin Middleton, Emergency Manager/Fire Marshal, Cibola County  
—Adam Berry, Emergency Manager, Office of Emergency Management,  
    McKinley County  
—Beverley Simpson, Emergency Manager, Los Alamos County  
—Clay Reid, C.H.M.M., Senior Director for Hazardous Materials Safety,  
    BNSF Railway  
—Cynthia Weehler, Co-Chair, 285 Alliance

3:30 p.m.      **Public Comment\***

4:00 p.m.      **Adjourn**

\*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Virtual Public Comment" section of the RHMC [web page](#).

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

**August 15, 2024  
Student Services and Technology Center, Room 200  
University of New Mexico-Gallup  
703 Gurley Avenue  
Gallup**

The second meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee (RHMC) was called to order by Representative Joanne J. Ferrary, chair, on August 15, 2024 at 9:28 a.m. in Room 200 of the Student Services and Technology Center at the University of New Mexico-Gallup in Gallup.

**Present**

Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair  
Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Vice Chair  
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Rep. Stefani Lord  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

**Absent**

Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown  
Rep. Christine Chandler  
Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

**Advisory Members**

Rep. William A. Hall II  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson

Rep. John Block  
Sen. Ron Griggs  
Sen. Harold Pope

**Guest Legislator**

Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

**Staff**

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

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## **Thursday, August 15**

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

Representative Ferrary welcomed the committee, and committee members and staff introduced themselves. Dr. Sabrina Ezzell, chancellor, University of New Mexico-Gallup, welcomed the committee.

### **San Juan Generating Station Cleanup (9:35 a.m.)**

Justin Ball, bureau chief, Ground Water Quality Bureau, Department of Environment (NMED), provided an overview of NMED's remediation efforts at the site of the San Juan Generating Station, a coal-burning electric power generating station that was operated by the Public Service Company of New Mexico and closed in 2022. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=8/15/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

### **Uranium Mine and Mill Site Reclamation (10:22 a.m.)**

Chris Shuey, director, Uranium Impact Assessment Program, Southwest Research and Information Center, and Teracita Keyanna, member, Steering Committee, Red Water Pond Road Community Association, discussed cleanup and reclamation from uranium mining and processing in McKinley and Cibola counties. Mr. Shuey talked about the history of uranium mining and processing in the area, uranium mine waste, the health impacts from exposure to uranium wastes and the policies needed to address the situation. Ms. Keyanna discussed a proposal to move uranium mine waste from the abandoned Quivira Mines near Church Rock to the Red Rock landfill in Thoreau. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=8/15/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

### **Approval of Motion to Send a Letter to the Governor, the State Department of Justice, the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, the NMED, the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Urge Action to Remediate Contaminated Sites in New Mexico (12:24 p.m.)**

On a motion made by Senator Steinborn, seconded by Representative Johnson and without objection, the committee approved sending a letter to the governor, the State Department of Justice, the New Mexico congressional delegation, the NMED, the EMNRD and the EPA to urge: the State Department of Justice to research and advance a legal action against the federal

government to require the federal government to address national-defense-related uranium waste and fund a comprehensive remediation of uranium mining and milling sites; the governor to support the creation of a \$150 million cleanup fund to assist in the remediation of contaminated sites; New Mexico's congressional delegation to introduce legislation requiring the expeditious cleanup of defense-related uranium waste in New Mexico; and the establishment of a working group of interested states, federal agencies and Indian nations, tribes and pueblos to develop an actionable and comprehensive solution to address the issue of contaminated sites, including exploring the siting of a regional uranium waste site.

#### **Issues Concerning Downwinders (1:03 p.m.)**

Reverend Holly Beaumont, D.Min., organizing director, Interfaith Worker Justice-New Mexico, and Bernice Gutierrez, member, Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, discussed the history of the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) and provided an update on proposed federal legislation to extend and expand the RECA that is currently in the United States House of Representatives. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=8/15/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

#### **Approval of Motion to Send a Letter to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to Support Federal Legislation Relating to the RECA (1:32 p.m.)**

On a motion made by Senator Steinborn, seconded by Representative Johnson and without objection, the committee approved sending a letter to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the New Mexico congressional delegation to support the passage of United States Senate Bill 3853 to extend the period for filing claims under the RECA, provide compensation for claims relating to Manhattan Project waste and improve compensation for uranium mine workers.

#### **Funding for the Cleanup of Abandoned, Neglected and Contaminated Sites (1:38 p.m.)**

Mr. Ball and Kelsey Bicknell, environmental manager, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, discussed neglected contaminated sites around the state. Mr. Ball provided an overview of neglected contaminated sites where known or suspected contamination is causing a threat to human health or the environment, cleanup assistance through an existing state or federal program is not available and a responsible party is not identifiable to assess and clean up the contamination. Ms. Bicknell talked about the need to protect source water from neglected contaminated sites and the Carlisle Village Cleaners superfund site. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=8/15/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

#### **Emergency Preparedness and Response (2:37 p.m.)**

Adam Berry, emergency manager, Office of Emergency Management, McKinley County; Beverly Simpson, emergency manager, Los Alamos County; Clay Reid, C.H.M.M., senior

director for hazardous materials safety, BNSF Railway; and Cynthia Weehler, co-chair, 285 Alliance, presented information on emergency preparedness and the train derailment near the New Mexico-Arizona border. Mr. Berry provided an overview of emergency response incidents in McKinley County and talked about the train derailment. Ms. Simpson discussed emergency response incidents in Los Alamos County and preparedness for potential incidents involving the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Mr. Reid talked about safety measures at BNSF, including firefighting, first responders and hazardous materials response. Ms. Weehler discussed the dangers from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and lead in drinking water, runaway thermal fires from battery storage stations and releases of radioactive and toxic chemicals. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=8/15/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

**Public Comment (3:23 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 3:36 p.m.

Revised: September 10, 2024

**TENTATIVE AGENDA  
for the  
THIRD MEETING  
of the  
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

**September 13, 2024  
Zia Park Casino Hotel and Racetrack  
3901 West Millen Drive  
Hobbs**

**Friday, September 13**

- 8:00 a.m.           **Call to Order and Tour of Setbacks from Oil and Gas Operations for Committee Members and Staff**
- 9:00 a.m.           **Welcome and Introductions**  
—Representative Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee (RHMC)  
—Sam Cobb, Mayor, City of Hobbs
- 9:15 a.m.       (1)   **Update on Uranium Enrichment**  
—Lisa Hardison, Head of Communications and Public Relations, Urenco USA (UUSA)  
—John Kirkpatrick, Managing Director, UUSA  
—Rose Gardner, Co-Founder, Alliance for Environmental Strategies; Resident, City of Eunice
- 10:00 a.m.       (2)   **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Operations, Expansion, Storage and Shipments of Transuranic Waste and the Proposed Clean Energy Project at the WIPP Site**  
—Don Hancock, Director, Nuclear Waste Safety Program, and Administrator, Southwest Research and Information Center  
—Michael Gerle, Director, Environmental Regulatory Compliance Division, Carlsbad Field Office, United States Department of Energy  
—Megan McLean, Environmental Scientist, Hazardous Waste Bureau, Department of Environment (NMED)
- 11:30 a.m.           **Break**
- 12:00 noon       **Working Lunch**  
(3)   **Setbacks from Oil and Gas Operations**  
—Jozee Zuniga, Organizer, Center for Biological Diversity  
—Colin Cox, Staff Attorney, Climate Law Institute, Center for Biological Diversity  
—Sharon Wilson, Director, Oilfield Witness

—Dr. Gunnar Schade, Associate Professor, Atmospheric Sciences, Texas  
A&M University

1:15 p.m.      (4)    **Produced Water and Water Reuse**

—John Rhoderick, Director, Water Protection Division, NMED

2:30 p.m.      **Public Comment\***

3:00 p.m.      **Adjourn**

\*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Virtual Public Comment" section of the RHMC [web page](#).



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

**September 13, 2024  
Zia Park Casino, Hotel and Racetrack  
3901 West Millen Drive  
Hobbs**

The third meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was called to order by Representative Joanne J. Ferrary, chair, on September 13, 2024 at 9:17 a.m. at the Zia Park Casino, Hotel and Racetrack in Hobbs.

**Present**

Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair  
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown  
Rep. William A. Hall II\*  
Rep. Stefani Lord  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

**Absent**

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Vice Chair  
Rep. Christine Chandler  
Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna  
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

**Advisory Members**

Rep. John Block

Sen. Ron Griggs  
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  
Erika Falance, Staff, LCS

**Guests**

The guest list is in the meeting file.

**Minutes Approval**

The minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

**Handouts**

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

## **References to Webcast**

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## **Friday, September 13**

### **Tour of Setbacks from Oil and Gas Operations for Committee Members and Staff (8:00 a.m.)**

#### **Welcome and Introductions (9:17 a.m.)**

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

#### **Welcome and Status Update (9:33 a.m.)**

Sam Cobb, mayor, City of Hobbs, welcomed the committee and gave a general update on economic development in Hobbs, highlighting a new solar project and stressing the importance of the oil and gas industry to the city and county.

#### **Update on Uranium Enrichment (9:42 a.m.)**

Lisa Hardison, head of communications and public relations, Urenco USA (UUSA), and John Kirkpatrick, managing director, UUSA, gave a brief overview of UUSA's operations in New Mexico and presented a video briefly introducing its operations worldwide. Ms. Hardison highlighted the company's commitment to the local community. Mr. Kirkpatrick described UUSA's current operation, plans for increasing capacity and the opportunity UUSA sees for growth in its New Mexico facility. Rose Gardner, co-founder, Alliance for Environmental Strategies, and resident, City of Eunice, expressed the concerns of her organization about how UUSA would deal with the nuclear waste the plant produces. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=9/13/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

### **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Operations, Expansion, Storage and Shipments of Transuranic Waste and the Proposed Clean Energy Project at the WIPP Site (10:44 a.m.)**

Don Hancock, director, Nuclear Waste Safety Program and administrator, Southwest Research and Information Center, addressed the WIPP permit renewal and the need for additional public information and engagement. Mr. Hancock described current activities at the site and aspects of the renewed permit. Michael Gerle, director, Environmental Regulatory Compliance Division, Carlsbad Field Office, United States Department of Energy, summarized the mission of the WIPP and what the facility has accomplished to date, noting that it continues to provide safe and compliant disposal of transuranic waste while protecting workers, the public and the environment. In addition, Mr. Gerle gave a brief description of current mining

operations at the WIPP. Megan McLean, environmental scientist, Hazardous Waste Bureau, Department of Environment (NMED), spoke about the recent successful negotiation of the WIPP facility operating permit as well as some of the new conditions included in the permit renewal. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=9/13/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

#### **Approval of Minutes (12:02 p.m.)**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the August 15, 2024 meeting.

#### **Setbacks from Oil and Gas Operations (12:24 p.m.)**

Colin Cox, staff attorney, Climate Law Institute, Center for Biological Diversity, presented data and information about the harmful levels of pollutants from oil and gas wells located in close proximity to schools, with particular emphasis on the danger posed to school-age children exposed to pollutants. Jozee Zuniga, organizer, Center for Biological Diversity, described the ill effects she suffered while living and attending school in close proximity to oil and gas wells. Sharon Wilson, director, Oilfield Witness, and certified thermographer, presented thermographic images of methane and other volatile gases escaping from oil and gas wells. Ms. Wilson described how wind and weather distribute the pollutants across the landscape. Dr. Gunnar Schade, associate professor, Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University, focused on a current study being conducted that suggests that ozone, methane, ethane and radon have been detected in the air, primarily as a result of oil and gas well emissions. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=9/13/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

#### **Produced Water and Water Reuse (2:06 p.m.)**

John Rhoderick, director, Water Protection Division, NMED, detailed the current status of rulemaking concerning water reuse for augmenting freshwater sources to reduce the strain on freshwater resources. Mr. Rhoderick described the department's efforts to encourage public engagement in the rulemaking process. Mr. Rhoderick also provided an update on the efforts to develop regulations for the use of treated produced water. He noted that the NMED is engaged in developing foundational rules based on sound science. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=9/13/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

#### **Public Comment (2:27 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 2:37 p.m.



Revised: October 10, 2024

**TENTATIVE AGENDA  
for 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**

**Tuesday, October 15**

- 9:00 a.m.           **Call to Order and Welcome**  
—Representative Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair, Radioactive and Hazardous  
Materials Committee (RHMC)  
—Antonio Salinas, Jr., Vice President for Business and Finance, New  
Mexico State University-Alamogordo
- 9:15 a.m.           (1)   **Issues Involving Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**  
—James Kenney, Secretary, Department of Environment (NMED)  
—Maggie Hart Stebbins, Natural Resources Trustee, Office of Natural  
Resources Trustee (ONRT)  
—Elena Fernandez, Project Specialist, Amigos Bravos
- 10:45 a.m.           (2)   **Kirtland Air Force Base Fuel Spill Cleanup**  
—J.D. Nance, Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau, Resource Protection  
Division, NMED  
—Kelsey Bicknell, Environmental Manager, Albuquerque Bernalillo  
County Water Utility Authority  
—Ryan J. Wortman, Physical Scientist, Installation Support Section, Air  
Force Civil Engineer Center, Kirtland Air Force Base
- 12:00 noon           **Break**
- 12:15 p.m.           **Working Lunch**  
(3)   **Update on Federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Legislation**  
—Mary Martinez White, Member, Tularosa Basin Downwinders  
Consortium
- 12:45 p.m.           (4)   **White Sands Test Facility Cleanup**  
—Rick Shean, Director, Resource Protection Division, NMED  
—Maggie Hart Stebbins, Natural Resources Trustee, ONRT

2:00 p.m.      (5)    [Monitoring of Drinking Water for Hazardous Materials](#)  
—Andy Jochems, Source Water Protection Team Lead, Drinking Water  
Bureau, NMED

3:15 p.m.            **Public Comment\***

3:45 p.m.            **Adjourn**

\*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Virtual Public Comment" section of the RHMC [web page](#).

**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](http://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.



**TENTATIVE AGENDA  
for the  
FIFTH MEETING  
of the  
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

## Friday, November 15

12:45 p.m. (4) **Working Lunch**  
**Endorsement of Legislation**

- 1:15 p.m. (5) **Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force Report**  
—Eletha Trujillo, Program Manager, Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force, and Bureau Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
- 2:00 p.m. (6) **State Emergency Response Commission Report**  
—Zach Wachter, Local Preparedness Program Manager, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (DHSEM)  
—Raymond Jee, Planning and Resource Manager, DHSEM
- 2:45 p.m. (7) **Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Report**  
—Jonathan Plaue, Associate Technical Director, Nuclear Facility Infrastructure and Projects, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
- 3:30 p.m. (8) **Weapons-Grade Plutonium Transport**  
—Cynthia Weehler, Co-Chair, 285 Alliance  
—Don Hancock, Director, Nuclear Waste Safety Program, and Administrator, Southwest Research and Information Center
- 4:30 p.m. **Public Comment\***
- 5:00 p.m. **Executive Session (Closed Meeting): Report from the National Nuclear Security Administration and LANL**  
—Robert Haldeman, Deputy Assistant and Deputy Administrator for Pit Production Modernization, National Nuclear Security Administration, United States Department of Energy  
—Kathy Keith, Director, Community Partnerships Office, LANL
- 6:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

\*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Virtual Public Comment" section of the RHMC [web page](#).

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

**November 15, 2024  
State Capitol, Room 309  
Santa Fe**

The fifth meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was called to order by Representative Joanne J. Ferrary, chair, on November 15, 2024 at 9:05 a.m. in Room 309 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair  
Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Vice Chair  
Rep. Christine Chandler  
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

**Absent**

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown  
Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Rep. Stefani Lord  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

**Advisory Members**

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

**Staff**

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

**Guests**

The guest list is in the meeting file.

**Minutes Approval**

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

**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](http://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 15**

### **Welcome and Introductions (9:05 a.m.)**

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

### **Plutonium Pit Production and Off-Site Plutonium Migration from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) (9:07 a.m.)**

Greg Mello, executive director, Los Alamos Study Group, appearing virtually from Washington, DC, spoke about the potential social and economic opportunities that are missed due to the focus on the dangers of plutonium pit production. He noted that neither the Department of Environment (NMED) nor any other official body has done a true impact study of plutonium pit production. Mr. Mello stated that he believes New Mexico needs to assert its autonomy in plutonium pit production decision making. Jay Coghlan, executive director, Nuclear Watch New Mexico, opined that expanded plutonium pit production at LANL is unnecessary. Mr. Coghlan also described what he sees as problems with LANL's nuclear waste disposal and said that LANL's plans to use the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) are not feasible. Michael Ketterer, Ph.D., professor emeritus, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Northern Arizona University, presented findings of the independent research that he has conducted showing that Acid Canyon near Los Alamos is contaminated with nuclear waste and poses a threat to the natural resources of the state. He asked that New Mexico put in place a rule similar to the rule in place in Colorado that sets standards for plutonium in water. Joni Arends, executive director, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, spoke about concerns that LANL's waste treatment facility is not properly regulated and that the waste treatment infrastructure at LANL is inadequate. She asked that the committee seek the governor's support in ensuring that hazardous waste management at LANL be regulated through the NMED. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=11/15/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

### **Chromium Plume Cleanup and Other Environmental Issues (10:06 a.m.)**

John Rhoderick, deputy cabinet secretary, Administration, NMED, detailed and updated the committee on the current status of the NMED's work with the LANL chromium plume, including a time line for future clean-up work. Jessica Kunkle, manager, Environmental Management, Los Alamos Field Office, United States Department of Energy, began with a brief history of legacy waste issues at LANL and followed up by presenting an overview of the current situation with litigation and clean-up of legacy waste, with a special mention of the

efforts to clean up legacy waste buried in Area G. Kate Girard, natural resources trustee, Office of Natural Resources Trustee (ONRT), explained the mission and the procedures that the ONRT uses in assessing natural resource damage, determining responsibility and assigning roles in remediation and restoration efforts. She cited as examples several past and current clean-up efforts for which the ONRT has been the driving force. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=11/15/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

#### **Uranium Reclamation Report (11:31 a.m.)**

Miori Harms, uranium mine reclamation coordinator, NMED, and Clint Chisler, senior reclamation supervisor and acting uranium mine reclamation coordinator, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), gave a presentation covering activities related to uranium mine and mill site reclamation that took place over the course of the previous year. The presentation fulfilled a statutory obligation for the NMED to report on reclamation activities annually to the committee. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=11/15/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

#### **Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force Report (1:04 p.m.)**

Eletha Trujillo, program manager, Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force, and bureau chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau, EMNRD, briefed the committee on the work of the task force, specifically with regard to the transport and disposal of legacy transuranic waste shipments received at the WIPP from sites around the nation. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=11/15/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

#### **State Emergency Response Commission Report (1:29 p.m.)**

Zach Wachter, local preparedness program manager, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department, updated the committee on the department's activities centered on all aspects of emergency planning for hazardous materials accidents. In addition, he detailed department efforts to work with local emergency planning committees and voluntary regional emergency planning districts. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=11/15/2024&ItemNumber=6>.

#### **Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Report (2:05 p.m.)**

Jonathan Plaue, associate technical director, Nuclear Facility Infrastructure and Projects, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, briefly explained the board's origin and history, then

detailed the board's activities and authorities in advising the United States Department of Energy and local officials on safety issues of importance when dealing with hazardous material handling in New Mexico. Mr. Plaue also introduced Eric Freeman, a nuclear engineer who works for the board as one of three LANL resident inspectors. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=11/15/2024&ItemNumber=7>.

#### **Endorsement of Legislation (2:44 p.m.)**

The committee discussed but did not endorse draft legislation.

#### **Weapons-Grade Plutonium Transport (3:14 p.m.)**

Cynthia Weehler, co-chair, 285 Alliance, read a statement expressing her group's concerns about the dangers of weapons-grade plutonium and the transport of nuclear waste within the state. She ended her presentation by asking the committee to use its influence at all levels of state government to ensure the adoption of nuclear waste disposal policies that make public safety of paramount importance. Don Hancock, director, Nuclear Waste Safety Program, and administrator, Southwest Research and Information Center, focused his comments on the renewal of the WIPP relicensing and on recent activities related to WIPP expansion. Mr. Hancock's request to the committee was that it do what it could to see to it that all state and federal laws are followed in the operation of the WIPP facility. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=11/15/2024&ItemNumber=8>.

#### **Public Comment (3:56 p.m.)**

A list of individuals providing public comment can be found in the meeting file.

#### **Executive Session (4:15 p.m.)**

The committee moved into executive session.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.







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