



NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE

**RADIOACTIVE AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
COMMITTEE**

2025 INTERIM FINAL REPORT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE
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INTERIM SUMMARY

Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee 2025 Interim Summary

The Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee held five meetings during the 2025 interim. At the first meeting, held in Santa Fe, the committee discussed the 2025 work plan and schedule. The Office of Natural Resources Trustee, the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), the State Land Office and the Department of Environment (NMED) each provided overviews of their regulatory roles concerning radioactive and hazardous materials.

The second meeting, held in Grants, included updates on San Juan Generating Station facility and mine site monitoring, remediation and restoration activities, proposed new uranium mines and oversight of uranium ore transportation, as well as characterization and cleanup of various neglected contaminated sites. The committee also heard about developments in the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act that expanded medical coverage and compensation for victims of fallout and radiation exposure, such as from the Trinity nuclear test.

At the third meeting, held in Albuquerque, the NMED presented an update on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) rulemaking efforts and health impact studies. The committee received a multi-agency briefing on the Kirtland Air Force Base fuel spill cleanup and heard from the EMNRD on the permitting and rulemaking process to allow for carbon dioxide sequestration in the state. Members also heard a presentation highlighting Colorado's experience with regulating downhole chemical disclosure and use of PFAS in oil and gas operations.

The fourth meeting was held in Las Cruces and featured updates from New Mexico State University on research, engineering projects and workforce development initiatives for environmental and radioactive waste management. The NMED addressed water reuse rulemaking, issues around emerging contaminants, such as PFAS, and coordination with federal agencies on energy-related oversight and project management. The committee also received an update from the EMNRD on Waste Isolation Pilot Plant operations and storage capacity.

At the final meeting in Santa Fe, the committee heard presentations on PFAS issues in Santa Fe County; abandoned uranium mine cleanup progress; Class VI carbon dioxide sequestration permitting and rulemaking processes; Waste Isolation Pilot Plant task force activities; and hazardous materials coordination by the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the United States Department of Energy provided updates on operations, legacy cleanup and the hexavalent chromium plume, and the United States Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board reported on the board's role in oversight, remediation and development of defense nuclear facilities and specific activities related to LANL. There was no endorsed legislation from the committee.

WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE

**2025 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

Members

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Chair
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Vice Chair
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Sen. David M. Gallegos

Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Sen. James G. Townsend

Advisory Members

Rep. John Block
Sen. Crystal Brantley
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton

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 2025 interim, pursuant to Section 74-4A-11 NMSA 1978, the committee will review, as scheduling and the availability of speakers permits:

- A. uranium mine and mill site cleanup and 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. cleanup of brownfield sites;
- G. the possibility of renewed coal production;
- H. carbon dioxide sequestration legislation and rulemaking;
- I. policies to strengthen downhole oil and gas chemical disclosures;
- J. an update on contamination at Cannon Air Force Base;
- K. interim storage of nuclear materials;

- L. an update on uranium enrichment;
- M. issues concerning per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including implementation of House Bill 140 (2025) and House Bill 212 (2025), PFAS in consumer products and drilling fluids, PFAS-contaminated sites, effects of PFAS on wildlife and PFAS in drinking water;
- N. produced water, water reuse and toxic pollutants;
- O. setbacks from oil and gas operations;
- P. the United States Department of Energy clean energy project at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) site;
- Q. examination of the monitoring of drinking water quality;
- R. Kirtland Air Force Base fuel leak cleanup;
- S. a report from the State Emergency Response Commission;
- T. White Sands Test Facility cleanup;
- U. plutonium pit production and other Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) projects;
- V. off-site plutonium migration from LANL;
- W. WIPP capacity for transuranic wastes over the contemplated length of plutonium pit production at LANL;
- X. weapons-grade plutonium transport;
- Y. chromium plume cleanup and other environmental management issues;
- Z. hydrogen energy production;
- AA. federal facility and contractor compliance;
- BB. federal and state funding issues;
- CC. petroleum storage tank system cleanup;
- DD. the status of United States Environmental Protection Agency and federal regulatory changes — rollbacks or elimination of standards;

- EE. the potential for modular nuclear reactors;
- FF. cleanup and costs related to wind and solar installations;
- GG. contamination of state lands used for recreation;
- HH. ozone levels in the state;
- II. a proposed green amendment to the Constitution of New Mexico;
- JJ. a report from the federal Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board;
- KK. as necessary, examine other issues relevant to the committee's statutory mandate;
and
- LL. endorsement of legislation.

**Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee
2025 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 29	Santa Fe
July 11	Grants
September 2	Albuquerque
October 3	Las Cruces
November 10	Santa Fe

AGENDAS AND MINUTES

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

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

Thursday, May 29

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Senator Jeff Steinborn, Chair, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials
Committee (RHMC)
- 9:15 a.m. (1) [Discussion of the 2025 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule](#)
—RHMC Members
- 10:00 a.m. (2) [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
- 10:45 a.m. (3) [Overview of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's \(EMNRD's\) Regulations Related to Radioactive and Hazardous Materials](#)
—Eletha Trujillo, Bureau Chief, Hazardous Waste Planning/Waste Isolation Pilot Project, EMNRD
- 11:30 a.m. (4) [Overview of the State Land Office's Regulation of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials](#)
—Sunalei Stewart, Deputy Commissioner of Operations, State Land Office
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 2:00 p.m. (5) [Overview of the Department of Environment's \(NMED's\) Regulation of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials](#)
—James Kenney, Secretary, NMED
- 2:30 p.m. **Public Comment***
- 2:45 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
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.

Revised: July 10, 2025

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

**July 11, 2025
New Mexico State University-Grants
Fidel Hall, Room 220
1500 Third Street
Grants**

Friday, July 11

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Senator Jeff Steinborn, Chair, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials
Committee (RHMC)
- 9:10 a.m. (1) **Welcome and Update**
—Marlene Chavez-Toivanen, Ph.D., Campus Executive and Academic
Officer, New Mexico State University Grants Community College
- 9:25 a.m. (2) **San Juan Mine Site Investigation Report**
—Erik Munroe, Manager, Coal Mine Reclamation Program, Mining and
Minerals Division, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources
Department (EMNRD)
- 10:05 a.m. (3) **Status of Proposed New Uranium Mines in New Mexico**
—David "D.J." Ennis, Manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program, Mining
and Minerals Division, EMNRD
- 10:50 a.m. (4) **San Juan Generating Station Remediation and Restoration Study**
—John Rhoderick, Deputy Secretary, Department of Environment (NMED)
- 11:35 a.m. (5) **Uranium Ore Transportation Update**
—Daniel Moquin, Principal Attorney, Natural Resources Unit, Navajo
Nation Department of Justice
- 12:05 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m. (6) **The Federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Resurrected:
What Happens Now**
—Tina Cordova, Co-Founder, Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium

1:45 p.m. (7) **Neglected Contaminated Site Cleanup**
—John Rhoderick, Deputy Secretary, NMED

2:30 p.m. **Approval of the Minutes of the May 29, 2025 RHMC Meeting**

2:35 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 "Additional Information" section of the RHMC [web page](#).

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

**July 11, 2025
New Mexico State University-Grants
Fidel Hall, Room 220
1500 Third Street
Grants**

The second meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee (RHMC) was called to order by Senator Jeff Steinborn, chair, on July 11, 2025 at 9:27 a.m. in Room 220 of Fidel Hall at the New Mexico State University campus in Grants.

Present

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Chair
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Vice Chair
Rep. John Block*
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Harold Pope
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana*
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Absent

Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Sen. James G. Townsend

Advisory Members

Sen. Shannon D. Pinto

Sen. Crystal Brantley
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton

Guest Legislators

Rep. Michelle Paulene Abeyta
Sen. Linda M. López
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom

*Appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives 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
Charlie Brewer, Staff, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

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Friday, July 11

Welcome and Introductions (9:27 a.m.)

Senator Steinborn welcomed attendees and invited members of the committee, staff and public to introduce themselves.

Welcome and Update (9:33 a.m.)

Marlene Chavez-Toivanen, Ph.D., campus executive and academic officer, New Mexico State University (NMSU) Grants Community College, welcomed members of the committee and provided updates about the NMSU campus and its current academic and career programs, including adult education programs as well as industry-recognized credential programs in science and nursing.

San Juan Mine Site Investigation Report (9:45 a.m.)

Erik Munroe, manager, Coal Mine Reclamation Program, Mining and Minerals Division, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), presented on the San Juan mine remediation and restoration project. Mr. Munroe discussed the specific legislative objectives of the investigative report and familiarized the committee with how the EMNRD conducts its research to determine the environmental contamination level of lands and waters near the former mine. This research is used to guide reclamation and restoration planning decisions as well as future regulatory actions. He covered current water monitoring practices used to map distributions of chemicals in the surrounding bodies of water and in statistical analyses. The results of the study suggested that while the ground water quality surrounding the mine contains higher concentrations of chemicals introduced through mining operations, the quality of the ground water is expected to recover due to the existing mine closure plan and the cessation of mine dewatering. The study found that the existing mine closure plan is adequate to recover ground water levels to normal and estimated that restoration would take approximately 10-15 years. Other efforts, such as revegetation, were also mentioned as part of ongoing restoration efforts. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=7/11/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Status of Proposed New Uranium Mines in New Mexico (10:47 a.m.)

David "D.J." Ennis, manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program, Mining and Minerals Division, EMNRD, gave a presentation on mine permitting processes and status updates on the progress of new uranium mining permits for the following locations: La Jara Mesa Mine in Cibola County, Roca Honda Mine in McKinley County and one exploratory permit for uranium in the Cebolleta Land Grant north of Laguna Pueblo in Cibola County. Mr. Ennis also presented on two in situ recovery projects: the Grants Precision extraction and the Crownpoint-Church Rock extractions. He gave an overview of the New Mexico Mining Act, the act's reclamation program and state and federal mine permitting laws, then moved on to discuss the state and federal permit statuses for each mine, exploratory drill and recovery. Committee members were concerned that environmental and health considerations are generally not taken into account when obtaining a lawful permit to extract, with some members mentioning the existing gaps in public health and worker safety in mining operations, and also in regard to the permitting process. Some committee members expressed concern about the various tribal communities that could be affected by incoming mining contracts. In response, Mr. Ennis emphasized numerous opportunities for public participation in the permitting process in which citizens can voice concerns and participate in the decision-making process. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=7/11/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Uranium Ore Transportation Update (12:32 p.m.)

Daniel Moquin, principal attorney, Natural Resources Unit, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, and Stephen B. Etsitty, executive director, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (Navajo Nation EPA), gave a joint presentation on the agreement between the Navajo Nation and Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc. to conduct regular inspections of cargo vehicles making their way through the Navajo Nation, specifically addressing those transporting uranium ore. They outlined the agreement as well as issues encountered. Mr. Etsitty described their inspection practices, which include examining the paperwork and conducting a full inspection of the transporting vehicle, checking for the proper containment of compounds and checking for radiation. Mr. Moquin and Mr. Etsitty mentioned that the Navajo Nation EPA is one of the only entities to implement such a thorough practice, not only within tribal lands, but throughout the country. Mr. Etsitty recalled a truck incident that eventually led to the implementation of the program. He described the restrictions the Navajo Nation EPA placed on cargo vehicles traveling through Navajo lands as well as their emergency response action. The presentation also covered the drivers of uranium prices and political obstacles to preventing excess shipments, as well as the federal regulation of radioactive materials and preemptions by federal law. After questions by the committee concerning worker safety and the implementation of cargo checks,

Senator Steinborn suggested that the committee consider drafting legislation to place tougher restrictions and requirements on the transportation of uranium and other volatile compounds in the state. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=7/11/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

San Juan Generating Station Remediation and Restoration Study (1:39 p.m.)

John Rhoderick, deputy secretary, Department of Environment (NMED), presented on the 2024 remediation and restoration study for the San Juan Generating Station, as directed by House Bill (HB) 142 (2023), the San Juan Generating Station Facility and Mine Remediation and Restoration Study Act. Mr. Rhoderick gave a progress report concerning ground water contamination and the steps being taken to monitor, assess and neutralize any contamination generated by the facility. Mr. Rhoderick went over the scope and requirements of HB 142 in regard to the San Juan mining operations and ongoing land reclamation efforts. He discussed the act's requirements, which include remediation plans, and the prevention of cleanup delays and providing stronger oversight and enforcement. He mentioned that NMED is currently evaluating options for future restoration efforts and described department goals that include the identification, tracking and remediation of ground water contamination in the areas surrounding the generating station and mine site. Mr. Rhoderick then presented a more detailed project overview of the department's remediation plans, including opportunities for public involvement. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=7/11/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

The Federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Resurrected: What Happens Now (2:15 p.m.)

Tina Cordova, co-founder, Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, presented on radiation exposure in the Southwest and shared what services her organization offers, as well as its commitment to seeking justice for downwinders exposed to radiation from nuclear testing in the mid-20th century. Specifically, Ms. Cordova referenced the extensive irradiating effects of the Trinity nuclear test, noting that New Mexico is the second most irradiated state in the country. She described the reparations that her organization advocates for, such as medical coverage for victims of fallout and radiation exposure as well as for uranium workers. She informed the committee that the coverage they have won through various lawsuits insures victims from the years of exposure spanning from 1944 to 1962, providing coverage up to \$100,000 and covering up to 19 types of cancer. Ms. Cordova added that there is still room for improvement and that there would need to be more involvement from state government, specifically for proper data retrieval. She requested that the committee consider drafting legislation to structure outreach and resolve missing or inaccessible records within government agencies, as well as to provide further funding for health care specifically for New Mexico residents affected by radiation exposure. Representative Ferrary suggested that the committee

draft legislation to allow downwinders to be included in Medicaid programs. Other considerations, such as a Netflix contract for a downwinders film, were also mentioned.

Approval of Minutes (2:58 p.m.)

Upon a motion made and seconded, the minutes for the meeting of May 29, 2025 were approved with no objections.

Neglected Contaminated Site Cleanup (3:00 p.m.)

Mr. Rhoderick gave a presentation on the status of various neglected contaminated sites and provided updates on the progress of cleanup projects as well as phase action time lines. Mr. Rhoderick went through a series of abandoned contaminated sites to be restored into usable land. He described the different methods each site would require to be restored and reviewed contract start dates for cleanup, project kickoffs and contract end dates. He discussed the methods of evaluation used to determine the levels of contamination and the specific remediation efforts that are needed for each site. Mr. Rhoderick mentioned that there are numerous sites that need cleanup but with the current budgeting restriction of \$2 million, they can afford to fund the cleanup of only six sites per quarter. He then presented on the contracts currently in effect within the budget. During questions, Senator Steinborn conveyed that proper characterization of abandoned sites should be a priority in the budget and for future appropriations. Senator Steinborn then suggested that the legislature take a multipronged approach to the cleanup of contaminated sites that involves a more strategic use of resources and funding, as well as potentially seeking legal action against responsible parties. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=7/11/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Public Comment (3:37 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 3:45 p.m.

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

**September 2, 2025
University of New Mexico
Student Support and Services Center
1155 University Boulevard SE
Albuquerque**

Tuesday, September 2

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Senator Jeff Steinborn, Chair, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials
Committee (RHMC)
- 9:10 a.m. **Approval of Minutes**
- 9:15 a.m. (1) **[Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: An Update](#)**
—James Kenney, Secretary, Department of Environment (NMED)
- 10:15 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
- 11:15 a.m. (3) **[Carbon Dioxide Sequestration: An Update](#)**
—Benjamin Shelton, Deputy Secretary, Energy, Minerals and Natural
Resources Department (EMNRD)
—Albert Chang, Director, Oil Conservation Division, EMNRD
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m. (4) **[Downhole Oil and Gas Chemical Disclosures: The Colorado
Experience](#)**
—Dusty Horwitt, Senior Research and Policy Consultant, FracTracker
Alliance
- 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 "Additional Information" section of the RHMC [web page](#).

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

**September 2, 2025
University of New Mexico
Student Support and Services Center
1155 University Boulevard SE
Albuquerque**

The third meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was called to order by Senator Jeff Steinborn, chair, on September 2, 2025 at 9:33 a.m. in the Student Support and Services Center at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Present

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Chair
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Vice Chair
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Absent

Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Sen. James G. Townsend

Advisory Members

Rep. John Block
Sen. Crystal Brantley
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton

Staff

Paul Estok, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sara Wiedmaier, Researcher, LCS
Zander Dawson, Staff Attorney, LCS
Gabriel Suazo, 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

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Tuesday, September 2

Welcome and Introductions (9:33 a.m.)

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

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): An Update (9:37 a.m.)

James Kenney, secretary, Department of Environment (NMED), discussed recent legislation that amended the Hazardous Waste Act to include firefighting foam containing PFAS and enacted the Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances Protection Act, noting that this enactment made New Mexico the third state in the country to comprehensively protect consumers from PFAS. He outlined the time line for rulemaking and described the labeling and reporting requirements, unavoidable use exemptions and enforcement and fees established by the Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances Protection Act.

Mr. Kenney shared progress on the NMED-funded PFAS blood testing project in Curry County and noted that of 638 blood samples collected so far, 99.7% were found to contain PFAS, many at higher levels than the national average. He also provided an update on litigation between the state and the U.S. Department of the Air Force regarding the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS at military bases in New Mexico and on state efforts to ensure clean drinking water and educate the public in nearby communities. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=9/2/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) Fuel Spill Cleanup (11:09 a.m.)

J.D. Nance, chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau, Resource Protection Division, NMED, provided background on the Hazardous Waste Bureau and an update on the KAFB fuel spill, corrective action process and onsite monitoring and cleanup progress. Kelsey Bicknell, environmental manager, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, described the role of the water authority and emphasized the importance of ground water in supplementing surface water supply. Ms. Bicknell explained the history of the fuel spill and the risk posed to drinking water supply wells. She noted steps taken to monitor wells and treat contaminated soil and ground water, but she said that cleanup is still needed to ensure drinking water supply is protected.

Ryan J. Wortman, physical scientist, Installation Support Section, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, KAFB, discussed measures taken by KAFB to characterize and remediate the soil, soil vapor and ground water at the site and noted that the rising water table is causing increased contamination of the ground water as it comes in contact with the contaminated soil above. He outlined the 25-year investigation phase and the next steps of the corrective measures evaluation phase: evaluating remedies, obtaining approval from the NMED on these remedies, adding more monitoring wells and updating the risk assessment of the site. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=9/2/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Carbon Dioxide Sequestration: An Update (12:16 p.m.)

Benjamin Shelton, deputy secretary, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), and Albert Chang, director, Oil Conservation Division, EMNRD, discussed classes of wells, specifically Class VI wells, which are designated for long-term geologic carbon dioxide sequestration. Mr. Chang discussed permitting, regulation, monitoring and plugging of Class VI wells to protect water and ensure permanent containment of carbon dioxide. Mr. Shelton provided an overview and time line of United States Environmental Protection Agency primacy permitting, state rulemaking and public engagement. He noted the unique land considerations of the state in tailoring rules to best serve New Mexico's stakeholders and environmental priorities. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=9/2/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Approval of Minutes (1:38 p.m.)

Upon a motion made and seconded, the minutes for the meeting of July 11, 2025 were approved without objection.

Downhole Oil and Gas Chemical Disclosures: The Colorado Experience (1:42 p.m.)

Dusty Horwitt, senior research and policy consultant, FracTracker Alliance, discussed studies on PFAS and other chemical use in oil and gas operations in Colorado and New Mexico. Mr. Horwitt mentioned health risks associated with exposure to these chemicals and the importance of chemical disclosure requirements for oil and gas operations. He outlined the time line and process by which Colorado implemented disclosure requirements and PFAS prohibition, as well as compliance and trade secret issues encountered and the possibility of expanding the Colorado law by adding testing requirements.

Mr. Horwitt highlighted a study that found high levels of PFAS and trade secret chemicals used in fracking operations in New Mexico and mentioned efforts, such as House Bill 222 (2025) and a 2023 petition to the Oil Conservation Commission for rulemaking, to require

disclosure and enact PFAS rules similar to Colorado's law. He noted that significant gaps remain in New Mexico's protections and suggested broader reporting requirements and adding testing requirements. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=9/2/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Public Comment (3:12 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 3:27 p.m.

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for 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**

Wednesday, October 15

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Senator Jeff Steinborn, Chair, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials
Committee (RHMC)
- 9:10 a.m. (1) **Welcome and Research and Projects Update**
—Patricia Sullivan, Ph.D., Vice President for Research, New Mexico State
University (NMSU)
—David Jauregui, Ph.D., P.E., Dean, College of Engineering, NMSU
- 10:15 a.m. (2) **Topic Updates: Water Reuse, Emerging Contaminants and the
National Nuclear Security Administration and United States
Department of Energy's Energy Management Oversight**
—James Kenney, Secretary, Department of Environment
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (3) **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Annual Update**
—Carrie Ann DeAguiro, Chief, Hazardous Waste Transportation Planning
Bureau, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
- 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 "Additional Information" section of the RHMC [web page](#).

**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.

Revised: December 4, 2025

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

**December 8, 2025
State Capitol, Room 309
Santa Fe**

Monday, December 8

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Senator Jeff Steinborn, Chair, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials
Committee (RHMC)
- 9:10 a.m. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 2, 2025 RHMC Meeting**
- 9:15 a.m. (1) **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Issues in Santa Fe County**
—Jonas Armstrong, Director, Water Protection Division, Department of
Environment (NMED)
—Andrew Hautzinger, Special Projects Coordinator, Water Protection
Division, NMED
- 9:45 a.m. (2) **Abandoned Uranium Mine Cleanup**
—Miori Harms, Uranium Mine Reclamation Coordinator, NMED
—Abimbola Ojekanmi, Uranium Mine Reclamation Coordinator,
Environment, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
- 10:15 a.m. (3) **Class VI Carbon Dioxide Sequestration**
—Benjamin Shelton, Deputy Secretary, EMNRD
- 11:15 a.m. (4) **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Task Force Update**
—Carrie DeAgüero, Chief, Hazardous Waste Planning Bureau, EMNRD
- 11:45 a.m. (5) **Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department
(DHSEM)**
—Tessa Snyder, Hazardous Materials Coordinator, DHSEM
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (6) **Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Update**
—Frances Chadwick, Staff Director, LANL
—Kathy Keith, Director, Community Partnerships Office, LANL

- 2:00 p.m. (7) [Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup and Hexavalent Chromium Plume Update](#)
—Jessica Kunkle, Manager, Environmental Management-Los Alamos Field
Office, United States Department of Energy
- 3:00 p.m. (8) [Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board \(DNFSB\) Report](#)
—Jonathan Plaue, Technical Director, DNFSB
- 4:00 p.m. (9) [Discussion of Proposed Legislation](#)
- 4:30 p.m. **Public Comment***
- 5:00 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 "Additional Information" section of the RHMC [web page](#).

If you have a disability and require assistance with accessing a meeting, please [click here](#) to request a reasonable accommodation. You may also call Robin Garrison at (505) 986-4685 or email ada.assist@nmlegis.gov. Please help us prepare your accommodation by submitting your request at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Requests made with less than a 24-hour notice cannot be guaranteed.

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

**December 8, 2025
State Capitol, Room 309
Santa Fe**

The fifth meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was called to order by Senator Jeff Steinborn, chair, on December 8, 2025 at 9:45 a.m. in Room 309 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Chair
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Vice Chair
Rep. John Block*
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto*
Sen. Harold Pope

Absent

Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Sen. James G. Townsend

Advisory Members

Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton

Guest Legislators

Rep. Michelle Paulene Abeyta
Rep. Joseph Franklin Hernandez

*Appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives 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

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.

Monday, December 8

Welcome and Introductions (9:45 a.m.)

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

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Issues in Santa Fe County (9:50 a.m.)

Jonas Armstrong, director, Water Protection Division, Department of Environment (NMED), and Andrew Hautzinger, special projects coordinator, Water Protection Division, NMED, discussed high PFAS contamination levels in Santa Fe County, especially in La Cieneguilla, possible sources of the contamination and health impacts of PFAS exposure. Mr. Armstrong shared the NMED's response, community outreach and solutions, including providing water filters to residents and site soil and water sampling to monitor PFAS levels and movement. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=12/8/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Approval of Minutes (10:29 a.m.)

Upon a motion made and seconded, the minutes for the meeting of October 15, 2025 were approved without objection.

Abandoned Uranium Mine Cleanup (10:30 a.m.)

Miori Harms, uranium mine reclamation coordinator, NMED, and Abimbola Ojekanmi, uranium mine reclamation coordinator, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), provided an overview of the Uranium Mine Cleanup Program and a progress report on current and planned cleanup efforts at neglected contaminated sites around the state. Ms. Harms discussed the need for dedicated, recurring funding to complete and expand cleanup activities and changes in federal agencies and programs that could impact progress. David "DJ" Ennis, manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program, EMNRD, joined for the question-and-answer portion to address questions regarding mineral rights and mine permitting near cultural sites and tribal consultation. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=12/8/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Class VI Carbon Dioxide Sequestration (11:50 a.m.)

Benjamin Shelton, deputy secretary, EMNRD, provided a follow-up presentation on Class VI well permitting and the state's primacy application to address committee questions from the September meeting. Mr. Shelton outlined the differences between Class II and Class VI wells, Class VI carbon sequestration permitting and bonding requirements, operational and closure cost projections and potential liability concerns for the state. He noted that there are no Class VI wells in operation in New Mexico but that there is a permit application currently under review by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for a carbon storage hub in San Juan County. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=12/8/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Task Force Update (12:43 p.m.)

Carrie DeAgüero, chief, Hazardous Waste Planning Bureau, EMNRD, provided updates on the Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force and the WIPP Transportation Safety Program. Ms. DeAgüero shared metrics for state agency hazard response training programs and transuranic shipments to the WIPP and noted plans for coordinated emergency training exercises and state-federal coordination in 2026. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=12/8/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (DHSEM) (12:56 p.m.)

Tessa Snyder, hazardous materials coordinator, DHSEM, and Ali Rye, secretary, DHSEM, discussed the background of the DHSEM, statewide hazardous materials incidents and responses and local preparedness efforts. Ms. Snyder shared the State Emergency Response Commission's 2024 annual report and highlighted the work of the local emergency planning committees, which develop hazardous chemical emergency response plans, trainings and regional coordination activities. She noted collaboration with state and federal entities, emerging threats such as lithium-ion batteries and program funding and fee cap issues. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=12/8/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Update (1:26 p.m.)

Frances Chadwick, staff director, LANL, and Kathy Keith, director, Community Partnerships Office, LANL, provided an update on LANL activities over the past year, including administrative changes, progress across mission areas and impacts in New Mexico. Ms. Chadwick noted that of \$1.8 billion in procurements for the year, \$752 million was spent with New Mexico businesses. Ms. Keith added that LANL supports workforce pipeline programs at

New Mexico colleges and universities and invested \$18 million to support plutonium workforce development specifically. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=12/8/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup and Hexavalent Chromium Plume Update (2:12 p.m.)

Jessica Kunkle, manager, Environmental Management-Los Alamos (EM-LA) Field Office, United States Department of Energy, discussed the mission of the EM-LA Office in the cleanup of legacy contamination and waste at LANL. Ms. Kunkle outlined the number of waste shipments to the WIPP since 1999, the process of retrieving buried waste, the current above-ground waste inventory and plans for disposal. She emphasized coordination with the NMED, compliance with the consent order and ongoing efforts to monitor and treat the hexavalent chromium plume. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=12/8/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Report (3:14 p.m.)

Jonathan Plaue, technical director, DNFSB, provided the background, scope and authority of the DNFSB, which was established by Congress to advise the United States Secretary of Energy and ensure the health and safety of the public and workers at defense nuclear facilities. Mr. Plaue highlighted United States Department of Energy sites with defense nuclear facilities, including the three sites in New Mexico, which are Sandia National Laboratories, LANL and the WIPP, and discussed specific activities and current safety issues related to each of these sites. He noted that DNFSB inspectors are considered excepted staff and will continue to oversee site operations and safety, regardless of a government shutdown. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=12/8/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

Discussion of Proposed Legislation

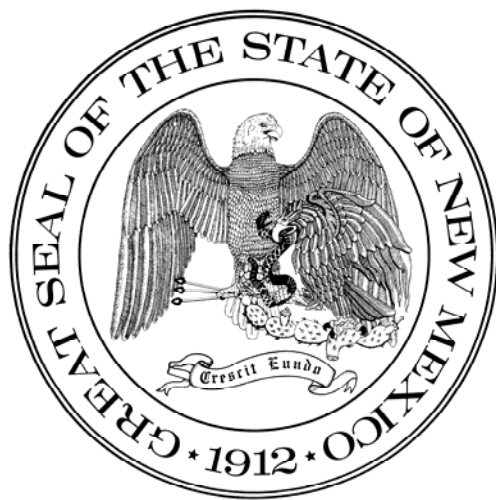
There was no proposed legislation for discussion.

Public Comment (4:06 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 4:18 p.m.



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