

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

**June 9, 2026
State Capitol, Room 322
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was called to order by Senator Jeff Steinborn, chair, on June 9, 2026 at 12:42 p.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Chair
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Harold Pope
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Sen. James G. Townsend

Absent

Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Vice Chair
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson

Advisory Members

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

Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton

Guest Legislators

Sen. Linda M. López
Rep. Nathan P. Small

Staff

Em Green, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Paul Estok, 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

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Tuesday, June 9

Welcome and Introductions (12:42 p.m.)

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

Discussion of the 2026 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (12:48 p.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. Committee members discussed the 2026 work plan and meeting schedule. On a motion duly made and seconded, and without objection, the committee voted to approve the 2026 work plan and meeting schedule, as amended. The approved work plan can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Work_Plans/RHMCworkplan26.pdf.

Overview of the Department of Environment's (NMED's) Regulation of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (12:59 p.m.)

James Kenney, secretary, NMED, and Russell Lashley, acting director, Resource Protection Division, NMED, discussed the NMED's regulatory authority over hazardous, radioactive and mixed wastes at various facilities in the state. They provided an update on environmental bills from the 2026 session. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=6/9/2026&ItemNumber=2>.

Overview of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's (EMNRD's) Regulations Related to Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (2:31 p.m.)

Zach Wachter, program manager, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), EMNRD, discussed the work of the Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force in managing and implementing the WIPP Transportation Safety Program. He provided updates on the Legacy Transuranic 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=6/9/2026&ItemNumber=3>.

Overview of the State Land Office's (SLO's) Regulation of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (2:59 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 SLO legal and regulatory framework and discussed recent events regarding uranium mining and the SLO's uranium mining remediation and reclamation efforts. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=6/9/2026&ItemNumber=4>.

Overview of the Office of Natural Resources Trustee's (ONRT's) Role in Restoring Resources Affected by the Release of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials (4:01 p.m.)

Rebecca Roose, natural resources trustee, ONRT, and Kate Girard, executive director, 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. They provided an overview of the ONRT's process of damage assessment to natural resources, settlement or litigation with responsible parties, community input and compensation and implementation of restoration activities. They 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=6/9/2026&ItemNumber=5>.

Public Comment (4:40 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 5:08 p.m.