

2007 APPROVED
WORK PLAN, MEETING SCHEDULE AND BUDGET
for the
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE

Committee Members

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Sen. Vernon D. Asbill
Rep. William J. Gray
Sen. John T.L. Grubestic
Rep. Manuel G. Herrera

Sen. Gay G. Kernan
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Sen. Rod Adair
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Sen. John Pinto
Rep. Nick L. Salazar
Rep. Jeff Steinborn
Rep. Peter Wirth

History

The Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was created in 1979 by statute, Section 74-4A-9 NMSA 1978, to provide a means of coordinating information exchange and develop appropriate state actions in relation to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad. The name of the committee was changed in 1983 and again in 1986 to more accurately reflect the scope of the committee's work, which was broadened by the legislature in 1981, 1986 and 1991.

Over the years, the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee's scope has expanded to include a variety of subject matter relating to the environment. In addition to hearing testimony on the progress and status of WIPP, the committee has assumed a major role in the legislative oversight of the New Mexico Department of Environment's (NMED) regulatory actions and the handling, disposal and cleanup of hazardous materials at federal facilities in New Mexico. It also has received extensive testimony from governmental entities, private industry groups and concerned citizens on other environmental issues such as air and water quality, ground water quality, solid waste and mining and mine safety.

Work Plan

During the 2007 interim, the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee will gather information and hear testimony on the areas of focus adopted by the Legislative Council for the committee as well as other environmental issues. With regard to the areas of focus, the committee plans to examine uranium mining in New Mexico and the development of nuclear energy, including the potential benefits of nuclear energy as a clean energy alternative and the

potential harm from waste produced by uranium mining to the environment and public health; review developing issues related to NMED's intention to assume primacy over the federal Environmental Protection Agency's national pollutant discharge elimination system; and, in coordination with the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Oversight Committee, monitor implementation of the federal consent order on environmental remediation and cleanup at LANL.

As a follow-up to its direction from the Legislative Council to study the potential benefits and potential harm associated with nuclear-generated power, the committee will examine alternatives for future electricity generation and their environmental and health impacts. The committee also plans to hear testimony from NMED and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department on the executive's efforts to improve air quality and administer energy-efficient programs.

Additionally, the committee will review the strategic plan for the federal Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and gather information on emerging nuclear waste management technologies. Finally, the committee intends to hear testimony from officials at WIPP and NMED on the status of remote-handled transuranic waste shipments; receive a status report from Louisiana Energy Services on the construction of its uranium-enrichment plant near Hobbs; and review the budget and legislative initiatives of NMED, including proposed changes to the Hazardous Waste Act and the Ground Water Protection Act to meet new requirements in the 2005 federal Energy Policy Act.

If needed, the committee plans to develop appropriate legislation for the 2008 legislative session.

2007 APPROVED MEETING SCHEDULE AND BUDGET

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 11	Santa Fe
July 12-13	Santa Fe
August 27	Los Alamos <i>(Joint meeting with the LANL Oversight Committee)</i>
September 20-21	Carlsbad
October 30*	Grants
November 26	Santa Fe

*Meeting date originally approved by the Legislative Council was October 4.