

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

**November 14, 2022  
State Capitol, Room 309  
Santa Fe**

The fourth meeting of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was called to order by Senator Jeff Steinborn, chair, on November 14, 2022 at 9:13 a.m. in Room 309 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Chair  
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Vice Chair  
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown  
Rep. Christine Chandler  
Rep. Stefani Lord  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana

**Absent**

Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Sen. Gay G. Kernan  
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez

**Advisory Members**

Sen. Ron Griggs  
Sen. Harold Pope  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez  
Sen. Gregg Schmedes  
Rep. James G. Townsend

**Guest Legislator**

Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

**Staff**

Tom Kricka, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Lenaya Montoya, LCS  
Sara Wiedmaier, 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](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.

## **Monday, November 14**

### **Welcome and Introductions (9:13 a.m.)**

Senator Steinborn welcomed the committee and had members of the committee, staff and audience introduce themselves.

### **Proposed Green Amendment (9:18 a.m.)**

Representative Ferrary and Senator Sedillo Lopez presented their proposed constitutional Green Amendment and provided updates on the changes between previous drafts and the current draft of the proposed constitutional amendment. Representative Ferrary spoke to the benefits of the proposed constitutional amendment and how it would impact the state. Senator Sedillo Lopez spoke to the legal provisions of the constitutional amendment and how citizens of New Mexico could enforce their rights under the amendment, including the types of damages that could be awarded under this proposed constitutional amendment. The proposed amendment can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/RHM%2011422%20Item%201%20Green%20Amendment.pdf>.

On a motion by Representative Sariñana and seconded by Representative Ferrary, the committee voted to endorse the proposed constitutional Green Amendment. Representatives Brown and Lord voted against endorsement.

### **Approval of Minutes (10:18 a.m.)**

On a motion made by Representative Alcon, seconded by Representative Sariñana and without objection, the minutes of the August 5, 2022 and September 6, 2022 meetings were approved.

### **Uranium Mine Legacy Cleanup (10:19 a.m.)**

John Rhoderick, acting director, Water Protection Division, Department of Environment (NMED); Jonas Armstrong, director, Office of Strategic Initiatives, NMED; Jerry Schoeppner, director, Mining and Minerals Division, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department; and Bill Von Till, chief, Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, provided an update on the uranium mine legacy cleanup, an overview of each uranium mine site, how the various departments are working together to address the legacy

contamination, the regulatory regimes of the state and federal government and legislation that the state has passed to help with the uranium mine legacy cleanup. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=11/14/2022&ItemNumber=2>.

**Legacy Environmental Cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) (11:35 a.m.)**

Michael Mikolanis, manager, Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office, United States Department of Energy (DOE), and David Nicholas, director, Office of Completion of Projects, Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office, DOE, provided an overview of the LANL legacy environmental cleanup, including top priorities, budgetary requests, milestones accomplished and the strategic vision for the office. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/RHM%20111422%20Item%203%20legacy%20LANL.pdf>.

**Update from LANL (1:46 p.m.)**

Frances Chadwick, staff director, LANL, and Kathy Keith, director, Community Partnerships Office, LANL, provided an update on LANL's hiring and retention of staff, accommodations for child care and educational and philanthropic initiatives. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/RHM%20111422%20Item%204%20LANL%20update.pdf>.

**Discussion Topics Concerning LANL (2:20 p.m.)**

Jay Coghlan, executive director, Nuclear Watch New Mexico, and Greg Mello, executive director, Los Alamos Study Group, discussed topics concerning LANL. Mr. Coghlan expressed concerns about plutonium pit production, the environmental impacts of the production and the impacts on future generations. Mr. Mello spoke about the demand for candor and transparency between LANL and the general public and the issue of waste production and the legacy removal process. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=RHMC&Date=11/14/2022&ItemNumber=5>.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.