

Gold King Mine Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

San Juan College Student Center – SUNS Room (1019)

May 23, 2016

CAC Members Present: George Baloo, Aaron Chavez, Richard Dembowski, Paul Montoia, Rick Nez, Norman Norvelle, Bill Palko-Schraa, Susan Palko-Schraa, and Jim Spence. Evan Tyrrell was absent.

NMED Staff: Allison Scott Majure and Michaelene Kyrala.

Presentation Speaker: Heidi Krapfl, New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH).

All Handouts: Available at <https://www.env.nm.gov/riverwatersafety/PublicParticipation.htm>

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairman Richard Dembowski. Introductions were made by CAC Members, the Presentation Speaker, and NMED Staff.

Old Business: There was no old business. Ratification of Committee Bylaws were voted on and passed at the April meeting.

New Business:

1. Brief announcements were given by NMED including the lawsuit. The lawsuit was filed by NMED and the NM Attorney General's office. The news release on May 23, 2016 was titled, "New Mexico Sues U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Mine Owners over Gold King Mine Spill – Environmental and Economic Damages Top \$100 million".
2. Meeting dates were in need of adjustment from the regular schedule to accommodate the holidays and state legislative session. New meeting dates were set for future meetings as follows: December 19, 2016, January 17, 2017, and February 27, 2017. A motion to accept the changes was made by Jim Spence and seconded by Norman Norvelle. Motion carried.
3. Norman Norvelle volunteered to serve as Secretary for the GKM CAC meetings. A motion was made to ratify Norman to serve as Secretary by Jim Spence and seconded by George Baloo. Motion carried.
4. The Committee reviewed meeting minutes of April 25th, 2016, graciously notate by Evan Tyrrell A motion to approve the minutes was made by James Spence and seconded by Bill Palko-Schraa. Motion carried.
5. Norman Norvelle made the announcement that the EPA's Administrative Record file (AR) for the Gold King Mine Release site would be available at the following four libraries: Silverton Library, Farmington Public Library, Office of the Navajo Library, and the Durango Public Library. It is also available on line at <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/08/AR64069>.
6. Michaelene Kyrala handed out and explained the May 16, 2016 Risk Dashboard. Copies are available the NMED website, www.NMEDRiverWaterSafety.org.
7. Paul Montoia wanted to recognize and thank the organizers and participants of the recent WRRRI Water Conference (NMSU) at San Juan College. The Conference is intended to be an annual event. Paul also wanted to thank Rich Dembowski for his excellent participation on the conference panel discussion.

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Presentation: “Department of Health Activities after the Gold Mine Spill”, May 23, 2016 by Heidi Krapfl, Bureau Chief, Environmental Health Epidemiology Bureau, New Mexico Department of Health.

The following was covered in the presentation:

- 1) Overview of environmental health epidemiology
 - a) Environmental exposures and health
- 2) NMDOH activities after GKM
 - a) Health expertise provided
 - b) Leveraging of Four Corners States Biomonitoring
 - i) Description of project and definition of biomonitoring
 - ii) San Juan County 2015 water results; upcoming urine results
 - (1) Discussion of metal concentrations in water and health
 - (2) Discussion of how urine results will be interpreted
 - iii) San Juan 2016 sampling – can be found at:
<https://www.env.nm.gov/riverwatersafety/PublicParticipation.htm>

CAC Members' questions/answers/comments:

1. Bill Palko-Schraa asked about NMDOH not sampling and testing for lead. Ms. Krapfl responded it was not considered a metal of concern from the mine spill.
2. Sampling at the tap versus at the well was discussed. Ms. Krapfl responded that NMDOH was concerned about the affects to the human body and therefore sampled at point of use (faucet or what people are actually drinking) and biomonitoring of the actual individuals. Whereas, NMED typically would be more concerned about the environment overall and would sample at the well, river, and sediments.
3. It was suggested that some type of bulletin board be available for people along the Animas River, such as Flora Vista, so people can look at the monitoring results. Ms. Krapfl said that more information is available at www.4csbc.org and https://nmtracking.org/en/environ_exposure/exposure-data_biomonitor/.

Public Comments: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bill Palko-Schraa and seconded by Paul Montoia. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: June 27, 2016 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. San Juan College SUNS Room (Rm 1019).