

Gold King Mine Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

San Juan College Student Center – SUNs Room (1019)

June 27, 2016

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

NMED Staff: Allison Scott Majure, Michaelene Kyrala

Presentation Speaker: Eric Frey, Sportfish Program Manager, New Mexico Department of Game & Fish.

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Richard Dembowski.

Old Business – The committee recognized the need for updates to the May minutes. They will be ready for the July meeting for approval.

New Business:

1. Notes were taken and discussed for the June 02, 2016 “Animas Watershed Partnership Quarterly Meeting” by Norman Norvelle.
2. Notes were taken and discussed for the June 09, 2016 “Bonita Peak Mining District EPA Pubic Meeting” by Norman Norvelle.

Presentation: “The NM Department of Game and Fish’s Response to the GKM Spill”.

In summary, NMDGF presented and discussed event timeline in response to the GKM Spill and sampling methods used. Tissue samples of fish and macroinvertebrates were collected during the immediate post spill and additionally 6 months after. Samples concluded that metal contaminants in fish tissues decreased over the testing period, consistent with dormancy in aquatic life. It was concluded that fish consumption did not pose a health/safety risk.

All materials can be found at <https://www.env.nm.gov/riverwatersafety/PublicParticipation.htm> .

CAC Members’ questions/answers/comments to the Presentation:

Jim Spence:

Was the control area for tissue sampling included in the consolidated metal level reporting?

- No. (NOTE – the slides were updated post-presentation to include a note that the control sample spot was not included in the reported levels)

Public Comments:

Why is sampling happening only twice yearly?

- Eric Frey – NMDGF: There are budgetary and resource restraints on testing.
- Melissa May – There are a limited number of fish available for mass testing, that is why testing on macroinvertebrates is common.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: July 25, 2016 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. San Juan College Suns Room (Rm 1019).