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## **BDD WATER QUALITY TOWN HALL SUMMARY REPORT**

### **Letting the Public Know**

The BDD Water Quality Town Hall was advertised in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, *Santa Fe Reporter*, and *Santa Fe Journal/Journal North* (three times in the *New Mexican* and *Journal* and once in the *Reporter*) as well as through 56 paid and 56 bonus spots on KBAC FM, KQBA FM, KVSF FM and KLBU FM. In addition, an e-vite (electronic invitation) was sent out to approximately 400 names consisting of individual who had expressed interest in or asked questions about the BDD in the past as well as those who had attended previous water meetings hosted by the City of Santa Fe's Sangre de Cristo water division. In addition, local and Albuquerque media were advised about the event. We received a brief write-up prior to the event in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*.

### **Attendance**

The event was held at St. Vincent Regional Medical Center in the Southwest Room. This location was chosen because County Chambers were unavailable, and the GCCC's acoustics were deemed unacceptable (plus, the GCCC was closed). We had approximately 50 people in attendance, consisting of about 50 percent interested citizens and members of nonprofit groups concerned about the BDD and 50 percent partner organizations and water professionals also interested in the BDD. Light snacks (vegetables and dip, cookies, lemonade and iced tea) were served. Participants were encouraged to sign in upon arrival, and everyone wore name tags. The Town Hall began about 6:15 p.m., and facilitator Lucy Moore opened the meeting by having everyone go around the room and introduce themselves.

### **Opening of Meeting**

Santa Fe Mayor David Coss welcomed the group, thanked everyone for participating and expressed his excitement about the upcoming BDD groundbreaking. BDD Board member and Santa Fe City Councilor Chris Calvert also welcomed the group and said he looked forward to an educational evening. Conci Bokum was introduced as a BDD Board member, and BDD Board chair Rebecca Wurzbarger was also acknowledged upon her arrival.

### **Presentations**

The meeting began with four presentations, including:

- 1) An overview of the purpose and need of the BDD – Rick Carpenter, BDD Project Manager
- 2) State and federal water quality regulations – Robert Gallegos, Environmental Specialist for the City of Santa Fe Public Utilities Dept.
- 3) Historical and current research on the Water Treatment Process chosen for the BDD and Characteristics of the Rio Grande – Dr. Kerry Howe, associate professor, University of New Mexico
- 4) The process for preparing the Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the BDD – Norman Gaume, P.E., consultant to the BDD Board

The PowerPoint presentations made by the panelists were posted to the BDD website, along with a revised "Water Quality" section and supporting documents, on Friday, August 29, 2008.

### **Questions and Answers**

Following the presentations, individual members of the group asked questions of the panel. Lucy Moore recorded the questions, and we anticipate posting these questions and answers to the BDD website no later than the week of September 8, 2008.

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## BDD Water Quality Town Hall Summary

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In summary, questions revolved around the following topics:

- BDD Construction Activities
- Water Quality from Old City Wells
- LANL Financial Contribution to The BDD
- Water Treatment Processes In Comparable Communities
- Surface Water Quality Standards
- Dr. Howe's Report
- Distribution of BDD Water
- Quality (Softness) Of BDD Water
- Currency of City of Santa Fe's Annual Water Quality Report
- Research into Synergistic Effects among Various Radioactive Elements To Which We Are Exposed
- Las Campanas Water Treatment
- Whether EPA Water Quality Standards Are Appropriate
- How Often EPA Updates Water Quality Standards
- Frequency of Water Testing
- Epidemiological Research Relating To Water Quality
- Impact of Drought on BDD and Downstream Communities
- Alternatives of Recycling/Re-using Water
- Size of Membrane Pores in BDD Water Treatment Process

At the end of the question-and-answer session, the BDD Staff repeated their commitment to provide all available information to the public in whatever format is most accessible. The Town Hall meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

### Public Feedback

Participants turned in 13 feedback forms. The group was asked to rate various aspects of the event (1 = unsatisfactory, 2 = satisfactory, 3 = very satisfactory and 4 = excellent). In summary:

Overall Presentation	<b>3.00</b>
Presentation by Rick Carpenter	<b>3.15</b>
Presentation by Robert Gallegos	<b>3.31</b>
Presentation by Norm Gaume	<b>3.08</b>
Presentation by Dr. Kerry Howe	<b>3.11</b>

Some of the comments received included: *"Lots of hard work and good science."* *"Too many speeches by questioners."* *"I would have liked to have heard about the sediment return facility."* *"Not enough time for questions."* *"Should compare this project to others in NM."* *"Recommend toning down technical jargon for non-environmental specialists."* *"Good try but I still don't feel safe."* *"CCNS obviously has a hidden political agenda."*

### Media Coverage

Both the *Journal Santa Fe/Journal North* and the *Santa Fe New Mexican* attended the Town Hall, and both ran stories about the event on Wednesday, Aug. 27. The title of the *Journal North* article was "Buckman Water Quality Debated," and reporter Kiera Hay quoted Elana Sue St. Pierre and Joni Arends of Citizens Concerned for Nuclear Safety, who both had concerns. The title of the *Santa Fe New Mexican* article was "Buckman Diversion Planners: Water Will Meet Standards," and reporter Julie Ann Grimm quoted panelists and BDD Board Chair Rebecca Wurzbarger. The *Free Press* ran an extensive article on the project the week of Sept. 1, 2008.

### Follow Up

As promised at the Town Hall, the PowerPoint has been posted to the BDD website ([www.bddproject.org](http://www.bddproject.org)). A Town Hall meeting summary will be posted to the website and emailed to all participants who gave their email addresses the week of September 8, 2008.