

FIRE, WATER AND THE AFTERMATH:

THE CERRO GRANDE FIRE AND ITS EFFECT ON THE RIO GRANDE/BRAVO WATERSHED

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2000 • 9AM-6PM

ELDORADO HOTEL BALLROOM, SANTA FE



By Jim Bones

What is Being Done to Protect Our River?

In the aftermath of the Cerro Grande Fire, the Rio Grande stands threatened by radioactive and hazardous wastes from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The destruction by fire of a vast area of mountain vegetation surrounding the Laboratory will cause flooding, erosion, and runoff that could transport nuclear and hazardous contaminants into the Rio Grande/Bravo Watershed. We need a long range plan to protect the river and our watershed.

The purpose of this conference is to broaden public awareness about the health and environmental risks and to encourage independent oversight of LANL's measures toward protecting New Mexico's largest watershed.

FIRE, WATER AND THE AFTERMATH:

The Cerro Grande Fire and Its Effects on the Rio Grande/Bravo Watershed

DEFINING THE CONTEXT

WELCOME

INVOCATION

THE RIO GRANDE

OVERVIEW AND FACILITATION

FRAMING THE ISSUE

TIME BOMB IN THE FOREST

WATER QUALITY & BORDER ISSUES

ACCOUNT OF WHITE ROCK CANYON, JULY 4th

9:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Anna Christine Hansen & Suzanne Westerly

Jose Lucero

Toby Herzlich & Mike Finney

Robert Alvarez

Keith Easthouse

Cynthia Lopez

Jon Asher

10 minute break

TRADITIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT

ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSPORT

EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE AND RISK ANALYSIS

PSYCHOSOCIAL EFFECTS OF DISASTER

RESTORATION OF THE RIO: A MATTER OF HEART

CONTEXT STATEMENTS AND CONCERNS

THE IMPORTANCE OF CITIZEN OVERSIGHT

Louie Hena

Owen Hoffman

Jim Rутtenber

Chellis Glendinning

Deb Hibbard

Audience Comments

lunch break

DEFINING THE INTERVENTIONS

WHO'S ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHAT?

Dept. of Energy & Los Alamos Nat. Lab:

DOE'S COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

LANL'S ENVIR. PROTECTION OBJECTIVES

DOE PROTECTIVE ACTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

WATERSHEDS & WILDFIRES

CONTAMINANTS, SEDIMENTS, FLOODS

1:30 PM TO 6:00 PM

Robert Alvarez

John Themelis

Lee McAtee

Ted Taylor

Ken Mullen

Steven Reneau

10 minute break

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPT. (NMED) & STATE ENGINEER:

CERRO GRANDE FIRE SAMPLING

CONTAMINATION, TRANSPORT AND RELATIVE RISK

SURFACE WATER QUALITY & THE COMMUNITY

Ralph Ford-Schmid

James Bearzi

James Davis

10 minute break - reset tables

CLARIFY AND EXPAND

TAKE IT TO THE COMMUNITY

WHAT'S NEXT? ACTION STEPS

CLOSING PRAYER

A Dialogue among Presenters

A Dialogue with the Audience

Bios of Speakers in order of Appearance

ANNA CHRISTINE HANSEN, Chairperson for CCNS. She has an MA in photography from UNM and works as a freelance graphic designer, photographer and part-time instructor at Northern New Mexico Community College. She has lived in New Mexico for the past 27 years.

SUZANNE WESTERLY is Acting Executive Director of CCNS and Community Radiation Edu. Program Director. She is also a photo journalist and with frequent features in *News from Indian Country*.

JOSE H. LUCERO, consultant, is a resident and member of the Santa Clara Pueblo. He frequently travels throughout the United States and the world speaking on behalf of Indigenous People of North and South America. Mr. Lucero holds a Bachelor of Science degree from UNM and a Masters of Education degree from Antioch College. He will discuss *The Rio Grande*.

MIKE FINNEY, PH.D. in management and organization, works nationally with groups to design and implement wellness strategies benefiting public health. He is providing technical support in developing the citizen oversight process.

TOBY LYNN HERZLICH is a professional facilitator dedicated to deepening understanding and promoting collaborative problem-solving among groups with highly diverse viewpoints.

ROBERT ALVAREZ is currently the Director of the Nuclear Policy Project a non-profit research organization in Washington, DC. He is considered one of the nation's primary experts on nuclear weapons, civilian nuclear energy and environmental health policies. Between 1993 and 1999, Mr. Alvarez served as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary of Energy National Security and Environmental Policy. He will discuss *Framing the Issues* and *Who Accountable for What*.

KEITH EASTHOUSE, a veteran environmental and science journalist, covered Los Alamos National Laboratory for the Santa Fe New Mexican from 1991 to 1998. Presently, he is associate editor of Forest Magazine, a bi-monthly environmental issues publication based in Eugene, Ore. Last year, in what turned out to be a prescient report, he wrote *Time Bomb in the Forest*, which focused on the extreme fire hazard at Los Alamos.

CYNTHIA LOPEZ, Ph.D. in Epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health. Currently Assistant Professor, UNM, Dept. of Family and Community Medicine. She will be discussing WATER QUALITY OF THE RIO GRANDE AND BORDER ISSUES.

JOHN ASHER owns Kokopelli Rafting and every summer takes children on educational rafting excursions. He will discuss the condition of that part of the Rio Grande on July 4.

LOUIE HENA is the Environmental Director for Picuris Pueblo and member of Tesuque Pueblo.

OWEN HOFFMAN, PH.D., is president and director of SENES Oak Ridge, Inc., Center for Risk Analysis. He is an environmental scientist with more than 25 years experience in the

field of radioactivity. He has studied aspects of environmental transport and health consequences of iodine-131 and other radionuclides released from nuclear facilities. He will be discussing *Aspects of Environmental Transport of Radiation*.

JIM RUTTENBER, PH.D. & M.D., is an environmental and occupational epidemiologist in the Dept of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, University of Colorado. He was a medical epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He studies relationships between disease and exposures to toxic agents in the environment. He will be discussing *Effects of Exposure and Risk Analysis*

CHELLIS GLENDINNING, PH.D., is a psychotherapist and author of four books, including the Pulitzer Prize-nominated, *When Technology Wounds, Waking Up in the Nuclear Age*. In 1991 she sat on the Board of Listeners of the World Uranium Hearing in Salzburg, Austria. She graduated from the University of California and lives in Chimayo, New Mexico. She will be discussing *Psychosocial Effects Of Disaster*.

DEB HIBBARD efforts are inspired by her commitment to collaboration, creative conflict resolution and community building. She is the community outreach director for Rio Grande Restoration where she puts to good use her more than 25 years of experience as a community educator and organizer. She will be discussing *Restoration Of The Rio Grande: A Matter Of Heart*.

JOHN THEMELIS, B.S., is Acting Deputy Assistant Manager for the Office of Environmental Operations and Services at the Department of Energy's Albuquerque Operations Office. He is responsible for planning, developing, implementing and managing environmental restoration, waste management and transportation projects. He will discuss *DOE's Commitment to the Environment*.

LEE MCATEE is LANL's Deputy Division Director for Environment, Safety and Health. He is currently serving as Technical Advisor to the Laboratory's Emergency Rehabilitation Team, which is coordinating flood control actions in the aftermath of the Cerro Grande Fire. Lee has degrees in Radiation Protection, Radiation Biology. He will discuss *LANL'S Environmental Protection Objectives*.

TED TAYLOR, Ph.D. in economics, is the Environmental Restoration Project Manager at the DOE Los Alamos Office. He manages the LANL's Environmental Restoration Project for DOE. His experience includes more than 20 years service in energy research and environmental protection for the federal and state governments. He will discuss *DOE Protective Actions for the Environment*

KEN MULLEN, Ph.D. in analytical chemistry, is the Watershed Management Program Leader for LANL and the Pajarito Watershed Partnership. He has a fair amount of experience as a hydrological technician, setting his career to work in water quality. He will be discussing *Watersheds And Wildfires*.

STEVEN RENEAU, Ph.D. Geology, U.C. Berkeley, works with the Geology and Geochemistry Group, LANL Team Leader for Sediment Characterization, Canyon Focus Area, Environmental Restoration Project. His specialty is geomorphology and environmental geology. He will be discussing *Contaminants, Sediments, And Floods At Los Alamos*.

RALPH FORD-SCHMID, obtained a BS in Biology from Western New Mexico University in 1990. He has worked for DOE Oversight Bureau since 1994. Prior to this he worked for the New Mexico State Engineering, the U.S. Forest Service, and as a reactor operator at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. He will discuss *Cerro Grande Fire Sampling*.

JAMES BEARZI is Chief of New Mexico's Hazardous Waste Bureau, which regulates hazardous and mixed-waste management in New Mexico. He hold a M.S.degree in Earth Sciences, and has been with the Environment Department for ten years. He will discuss *Contamination, Transport and Relative Risk*.

JAMES H. DAVIS, is an over-educated DWM. Ph.D. NMSU, MS U of U, BS UNM, all in Biology. Responsible. Has held only two jobs in the last 20 years. Currently BC of SWQB, NMED. Enjoys public meetings. He will be discussing *Surface Water Quality And The Community*.

CCNS STAFF AND CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

JONI ARENDS, J.D. and Masters in the Studies of Environmental Law from Vermont Law School. She co-founded CCNS in 1988 and is CCNS Waste Program Director.

COILA ASH, Administrative Manager for CCNS.

MARIAN NARANJO is Native American Outreach Director for CCNS, a member of Santa Clara Pueblo and a potter.

VICKIE DOWNEY is a Tewa language teacher and a member of Tesuque Pueblo and Tewa Women United.

CONFERENCE CO-PRODUCER

LESLIE LARSEN has been producing and directing multicultural video and live events here in Santa Fe since 1984. She founded Global Gatherings to explore issues of immediate social importance.

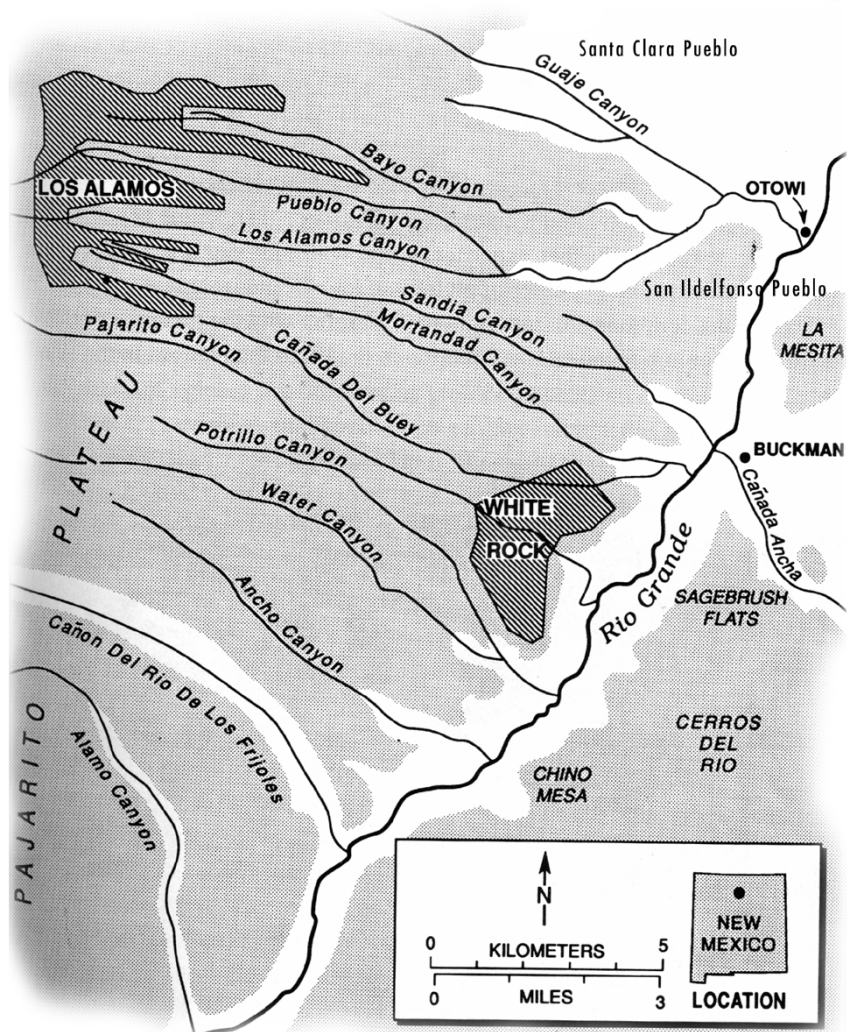
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Map from *Plutonium and The Rio Grande* by William L. Graf