



Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

July 11, 2017

Southeast Community College – Jack J. Huck Continuing Ed Center
301 South 68th Street Place, Lincoln, Nebraska

1:00 PM CDT

I. Call to Order, Introduction of Members

A copy of Nebraska Open Meetings Statute was available for review on the registration table.

John Grimes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM CDT.

Member		Affiliation	Present
Sheri	Blaha	County Elected Official	
MG Daryl	Bohac	Nebraska Military	
Steven	Danon	Small Business	
Keith	Deiml	Education	
Sue	Dempsey	Health and Human Services	X
VACANT		Agribusiness	
Joe	Francis	Department of Environmental Quality	X
Rick	Grauerholz	City Government	X
John	Grimes	Chair, Industry	X
Jim	Heine	State Fire Marshal	X
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair, Local Emergency Management	X
Larry	Johnson	Trucking Association	X
Polly	Jordening	Labor	X
Sharon	Medcalf	Community Health	
Dana	Miller	Fire	
James	Rashilla	SERC Coordinator	X
Kimberly	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	
Ben	Salo	Union Pacific Railroad	
Tom	Sands	Department of Roads	
Thomas	Schwarten	State Patrol	X
James	Stefinski	FBI – Omaha	
Bryan	Tuma	NE Emergency Management	X

Others in attendance: Kyle Otte, Jim DeFreece, Brian Folts, James Rashilla, Jim Dunker, Quinn Lewandowski, Vanessa Zobeck, Terri Blunk, Julie Bergfield, Dan Hiller

II. Approval of the agenda for July 11, 2017

Joe Francis made a motion to approve the July 11th, 2017 agenda; Polly Jordening seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissensions.

III. Approval of the minutes from the April 4, 2017 meeting

Polly Jordening made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 4th, 2017; Bryan Tuma seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissension.

IV. New Business

Fortigen Plant Update – Jim Dunker, Emergency Management Fillmore County

The Fortigen Plant estimates they will be online in late August 2017. During testing in May, their tank buckled under pressure testing. The plant had additional testing completed by an outside, third-party tester on their outside tank after this incident. The inside tank limits have passed testing. The outside tank will hold 20,000 tons of hazardous product (5 tanker loads).

A recent Coop Newsletter stated that the facility has begun expanding but the initial build-out is not yet complete. Jim Dunker has contacted the community on safety exercises regarding the plant and has visited two schools, the hospital, and nursing home in the surrounding area. Final conversations are pending with the schools and nursing home. The hospital is working on sealing their ventilation. The biggest concern in the community is the trucks carrying the waste and not the facility itself; Fillmore County has multiple waste facilities already in operation, so the community is familiar with the safety standards. There is a meeting on July 19th regarding a Risk Management plan with Olson & Associates. Community feedback has been positive and their focus is primarily on sheltering.

The Flint Hills ethanol plant is expanding into protein feed. Out of five protein feed plants, the Flint Hills plant will be the largest in the world. The plant is building three wind turbines to provide energy.

The Newstar Oil Terminal currently has 25 tanks, including pressurized tanks, and is adding one more to contain diesel fuel.

Burlington Northern has started moving oil through the North part of Fillmore County.

SERC Coordinator: position status update Nikki Weber

Two people, in attendance at today's meeting, will fill Tonya's vacancy. James Rashilla is the new SERC Coordinator. James' was previously a planner at NEMA and started in the 126th Chemical Battalion as a chemical biological specialist with the Army National Guard. James has a degree in Emergency Management from UNO. James is officially in the SERC Coordinator position but is pending appointment by the Governor to become a voting member of the committee.

Brian Folts is the new technical hazards unit supervisor and will be responsible for the radiological program which includes training, exercising, and planning in the communities surrounding the two Nebraska nuclear power plants. Brian will also oversee the SERC Coordinator and the calibration lab. Mr. Folts comes to the position from the 126th Chemical Battalion, Nebraska Army National Guard.

V. **Old Business**

a. **LEPC Membership Approval** (Vote)

There were 38 applications for membership received. One application was received from a fire department and not a specific individual – per bylaws this is a standard application process; the department will send one representative to the meetings. Polly Jordening made a motion to approve all applications for membership. Bryan Tuma seconded this motion; motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote.

b. **SERC Membership**

i. Status Report

This information was not available at today's meeting.

c. **2017 Regional LEPC Conference, Kansas City**

This conference is held every two years, and will be held July 20-22nd this year. The meeting tracks will discuss industry transportation, LEPC, and Hazmat. Online registration is still available and walk-up registration will also be available. There will be 25 LEPC Nebraska members in attendance. Thursday is pre-training; Friday and Saturday will include speakers and events. Brian Folts will run the Nebraska breakout session.

d. **SERC Strategic Plan Review and Update**

Mark DeKraai with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center: Mark and Quinn will meet with NEMA in the next couple of weeks. There will potentially be a strategic planning session in October. The planning will be expanded to involve other sectors. Additional information will be coming soon.

e. **Other**

No other information was discussed at today's meeting.

VI. **Report from NEMA**

Bryan Tuma: NEMA is currently working on staffing the preparedness units; there was a reorganization when the previous technical hazards manager passed away. Fort Calhoun going offline will reduce funds needed which will result in a reduction of staff. The calibration lab, which processes service, repair, and annual certification testing on instrumentation, has moved from the Van Dorn location to NEMA headquarters. This was a significant move due to security and radiological sources. DHHS and NEMA coordinated on the move. Mike Loftis, the manager of the calibration lab for the past years, will retire effective September 14th.

NEMA has reviewed the budget of the REP program for efficiency and cost savings and submitted the plan to utilities. Evaluation of local plans is pending.

There will be a rehearsal at Fort Calhoun on August 2nd and a hot wash on the 3rd.

The US Department of Energy funded a grid X exercise and provided a third party vendor to coordinate the event. Nebraska is one of three states who received this grant. NEMA is working with utilities to address resilience and continuity of operations.

There is a solar eclipse on August 21st. The state emergency operations center will be operational to monitor this event.

James Rashilla was involved with the Henry Doorly Zoo in May for an exercise which went very well.

NEMA is considering new incident management software.

The Lincoln Fire and Rescue Task Force One will serve as a type 3 for state disaster service. This group is a federal USAR (urban search and rescue) team. The team operates as a civil support team and is fully funded through FEMA for federally declared disasters. The task force routinely responds to major events so they have a lot of equipment, resources, training, and certified representatives. Nebraska will utilize this team to run incident command for an event because the state does not have enough properly trained representatives to fill all 13 positions. Additionally, due to the task force's resources, they can work on behalf of the governor, are covered under Workman's Comp, and will be paid by disaster funds.

NEMA has submitted applications for the 2017 Hazardous Materials grant, Homeland Security grant, and the Emergency Management Performance grant. NEMA will receive approximately \$20,000 more than last year from Homeland Security and \$850 more from EMPG.

The Waste Isolation pilot project in Carlsbad, NM is back online after an incident. The project is receiving shipments of material. Nebraska will see these WIPP shipments coming through the state. There was a transportation waste group formed years ago who created a plan as an annex to the state emergency plan (ESF8). Mr. Tuma will engage the Lt. Governor in a briefing later this week to discuss the plan. This facility receives transuranic waste which is shipped in barrels and encapsulated into a salt cavern 7000 feet underground to trap the waste material.

VII. Report from NDEQ/EPA

NDEQ – Joe Francis: The NDEQ has had numerous events this past month. There was a drum of HCL leaking in Columbus, but it was not significant. The department has diminished the 'Community Right to Know' program due to budget cuts. The outreach representative has been reassigned; NDEQ will continue to meet statutory responsibilities. Norfolk has requested Tier II training but NDEQ will not be able to fulfil the request due to budget restraints. The point person for Tier II has not yet been determined.

EPA – Terri Blunk:

Rule Modernizing Risk Management Program Regulation Effective Date delayed until February 19, 2019: EPA has further delayed the effective date of finalized amendments to February, 19, 2019, in order to reconsider the amendments based on petitions received by EPA and to consider other issues that may benefit from public comment.

New Region 7 Emergency Preparedness Newsletter Available: In June EPA Region 7 released its first Emergency Preparedness Newsletter. The purpose of this semiannual newsletter is to provide information relating to emergency planning/preparedness and accident prevention to the regulated community and emergency responders/planners. Articles in the June issue included: 2017 Region 7 LEPC/TERC Emergency Planning and Response Conference; FAQs for EPCRA 311/312; releases reported to the National Response Center from 2012-16; railroad emergency preparedness; LEPC highlight: November 2016 Platte County emergency response to pipeline explosion; state and EPA announcements; training resources. To be added to e-mail list send an e-mail to R7PreparednessNewsletter@epa.gov with the subject “Add Me to Newsletter List”.

CAMEO Application Available for Android and iOS Devices: An application has been developed to allow users to access CAMEO on smartphones and tablets, in both Apple and Android. For more information or to download the application visit: www.epa.gov/cameo/cameosoftwre#download%20cameo%20chemicals

Next Region 7 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)/Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC) Conference Scheduled for July 2017: It’s not too late to register and attend this popular conference. Conference website and registration are at www.regonline.com/2017LEPCTERC

Changes to EPCRA 312 Tier II Reports Required by January 2018:

On June 13, 2016 federal register 39104 FR 81 was published amending EPA’s hazardous chemical reporting regulations at 40 CFR part 370 (EPCRA 311/312) to conform to the revisions of OSHA’s HCS due its adoption of the GHS classification and labeling of chemicals. Facilities will be required to report the new information on their CY 2017 Tier II reports (due March 1, 2018). For questions please contact your EPCRA Nebraska State Coordinator, Terri Blunk at blunk.terri@epa.gov or 913-551-7013.

Currently, farms do not need to report to EPA and large farms only need to report to the state. A Federal Court changed this ruling; the EPA has asked for more time on the ruling in order to develop guidance.

VIII. Public Forum / Presentation

2016 LEPC Highlights:

Adams County hosts tabletops at meetings and relates them to the location of the meeting. The county includes different industry representatives and community organizations and has LEPC members who aren’t typical members. Homestead LEPC is tracking the Fortigen plant and the Solar Eclipse event on August 21st. Lincoln County/North Platte: WIPP Shipments have spurred radiological training and preparedness. LEPC’s are looking to expand what they do and are very active.

Tim Hofbauer requested a standard location for the SERC meetings. The team at NEMA is evaluating a more stable spot.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Tim Hofbauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 PM CDT. Jim Heine seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote.
- b. Next meeting date and time to be determined.