



State of Utah

Department of Environmental Quality

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D. Executive Director

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE AND REMEDIATION Brad T Johnson Director

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR. Governor

GARY HERBERT Lieutenant Governor

STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Sixth Intermountain Hazardous Materials Conference Davis Conference Center 750 West Heritage Park Boulevard Layton, Utah May 17, 2005 @ 3:00 p.m.

Attendance List:

Johnson, Brad..... Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR White, Verdi..... Utah Department of Public Safety/DES

Also Attending:

Bekkemellom, Shane Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR Brewer, Corky Grand County Dewsnup, Wes T.W. Company Everett, Brent Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR Fifield, DeeEll Utah Department of Public Safety/DES Ford, Glenn U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Region VIII Garrett, Brian Utah Department of Public Safety/DES Grover, Terry Lincoln Environmental Humphreys, Craig Cache County Millett, Mark General Public Taylor, Neil Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR Thiriot, Steve Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR Zucker, Mike Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR

WELCOME/OVERVIEWBrad Johnson

On Tuesday, May 17, 2005, at 3:00 p.m., a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) meeting was held at the Davis Conference Center, as part of the Sixth Intermountain Hazardous Materials Conference. Brad Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the March 16, 2005, meeting minutes was postponed until the next SERC meeting due to the fact that the minutes were not yet available.

■ **DISCUSSION OF THE REVISED SERC ADVISORY COMMITTEE BY-LAWS..... Verdi White**

In order to discuss the revised SERC Advisory Committee By-Laws, and to fully understand the responsibilities of the SERC, Verdi White, the newly appointed co-chair, requested an informational review regarding the SERC and how it coincides and operates with other committees, such as the Governor’s Homeland Security Advisory Committee and the state’s Hazmat Sub-Committee. Mr. White also stated that the goal of the Governor’s Homeland Security Advisory Committee is to advise the Governor regarding homeland security issues, to share information or provide education when necessary, and to clarify the roles of different federal and state agencies. To fulfill this request for an organizational review, a brief overview of the SERC and the Advisory Committee was given.

DeeEll Fifield then explained that in the latter part of last year, issues regarding homeland security started to develop. As such, a decision was made to change the Advisory Committee to bring in Regional Response Teams (RRTs), and to incorporate other committees that were dealing with the very same issues. By restructuring the SERC, it would provide a forum for the regional or local response teams to come together and discuss pertinent issues as equal partners. It would also help provide outreach to the industry and cleanup contractors in order to have a forum for developing regulations, and to better educate and certify local responders in rural areas.

Neil Taylor also added that the objectives of modifying the Advisory Committee was to broaden its membership to include individuals who deal with all aspects that are required in the Community Right-to-Know Act, including regional response teams, representatives from fixed site facilities, hazardous materials cleanup contractors, and Local Health Departments (LHDs).

In order for the co-chairs of the SERC to further discuss the Advisory Committee restructuring, and to go through all of the various issues pertaining to this topic, a meeting was scheduled for June 6, 2005, to go through the by-laws of the committee.

■ **DPS REGIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY AND ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS..... Verdi White**

Mr. White explained that recently, the Department of Public Safety has been going around the state to discuss the state’s role in homeland security with the local Associations of Government and the homeland security regions. These meetings were also held to elicit feedback on any concerns that they might have about how the program is currently being run. Once all the feedback has been received and put together, the results will be brought before the SERC to review in future meetings.

■ **FEDERAL RRT MEETING, JUNE 22-23, 2005,
YARROW HOTEL, PARK CITY, UTAH..... DeeEll Fifield**

Mr. Fifield informed the SERC that the Region VIII RRT is comprised of 14 different federal agencies and representatives from each of the six states within the region. This federal team usually meets twice a year, and their next meeting has been scheduled for June 22-23, 2005, at the Yarrow Hotel in Park City, Utah. [An agenda of this meeting was then distributed to the SERC. A copy of this agenda is available at the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) offices.] Part of the agenda will also include a tour of the Olympic Park located in Park City.

Mr. White asked why these federal RRT meetings are held. Mr. Fifield stated that when the Community Right-to-Know Act was passed back in 1986, the U.S. Congress gave a lot of the responsibility for the act to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In so doing, federal RRTs were organized to handle catastrophic hazardous material events needing to be dealt with on the federal level. These meetings are held in order to coordinate and to discuss the national contingency plan and other pertinent issues involved in handling emergency response issues.

■ **DEVELOPMENT OF STATEWIDE NON-HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS CLEANUP STANDARDS/PROTOCOL..... Neil Taylor**

Mr. Taylor gave an update on the development of cleanup standards to handle contamination and releases of petroleum and other chemicals that are not the traditional type of hazardous material chemicals. This would include diesel fuel, crude oil, and petroleum products. Currently, no standards for these types of chemicals have been established. As such, LHDs and emergency response agencies that oversee this type of cleanup are on their own. This issue has been discussed with the LHDs and the cleanup contractors, and they are supportive of the establishment of statewide standards. These standards are now being put together by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and are under internal review. More information on this topic will be forthcoming in future SERC meetings.

■ **UTAH TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY DATA SUMMARY
RY2003..... Mike Zucker**

Utilizing a Power Point presentation, Mike Zucker gave a summary of the 2003 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) data for the State of Utah. (A copy of this presentation is available at the DERR offices, or from the DERR website.)

Mr. White asked what toxic release really means. Mr. Taylor explained that the facilities that report under the TRI are facilities that handle over 10,000 pounds of certain chemicals throughout the year that are on the standard EPA list. If the chemicals were on this list, the facility would then need to report on air, land, and water emissions. However, the majority of

these emissions are normal, permitted emissions and not emissions that are in violation of appropriate rules and regulations.

Mr. White then asked if there were any facilities that reported who were in violation. Mr. Zucker stated that the DEQ does not get this type of information. However, if facilities exceed permit limits in their emissions, a spill report would be called in and tracked in a spill report database maintained by the DEQ. Mr. White then suggested that it would be beneficial and useful to share this information with the DPS as they prepare risk assessments for the state.

Mr. Zucker stated that total releases for 2003 was 248 million pounds, as compared to 181 million pounds in 2002, which is an increase of 37%. This increase was mostly due to the increase of releases to land by the Kennecott facility. However, Kennecott reported more releases in 2003 due to increased material mined and processed, higher concentrations of naturally occurring lead, and lower copper recovery from the tailings pond effluent stream.

■ **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL ISSUES**
(e.g. Hg IN PRICE) Mike Zucker

Mr. Zucker explained that recently, a mercury release occurred in Price, Utah. While handling this situation, the DEQ was approached by several different residents stating that they had some mercury to get rid of and inquired as to how that should be done. The Wasatch front has household hazardous waste facilities to deal with this issue, but rural areas within the state do not have these services available. Mr. Zucker then recommended that this issue might be something the SERC wants to look at and address in the future.

Mr. Taylor asked if the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste (DSHW) was supportive of this type of initiative. Mr. Zucker stated that the DSHW would not recommend people just throwing the mercury away, but that it was unknown if they would be supportive of this type of initiative.

Mr. Fifield then stated that the Local Emergency Planning Committees have dealt with this type of issue before and that it is quite common in old mining communities.

Mr. Johnson also added that recently, a discussion was held with the DSHW about the possibility of developing some sort of mercury program within the State of Utah. Mr. Johnson then stated that this issue would be discussed internally within the DEQ. Once that has happened, this issue would then be brought back before the SERC to discuss in future meetings.

■ **OTHER BUSINESS.....**

No other business was conducted during the SERC meeting.

■ **NEXT MEETING**

The next SERC meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2005, at the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security, located in the State Office Building at the State Capital.

■ **ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:10 p.m.