



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

State Capitol Room Cafeteria Capitol Hill East Office Building Salt Lake City, Utah September 6, 2005 @ 11:30 a.m.

Attendance List:

Johnson, Brad.....Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR

Also Attending:

- Anderson, Klint..... Weber County Sheriff's Office
Andrus, DanSalt Lake City L.E.P.C.
Bekkemellom, Shane Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR
Bradford, Kent Western Zirconium
Everett, Brent Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR
Fifield, DeeEll..... Utah Department of Public Safety/DES
Folkman, Tammy Weber County Sheriff's Office
Ford, Glenn U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Region VIII
Garrett, Brian Utah Department of Public Safety/DES
Grover, TerryLincoln Environmental Services
Kraudy, Ken.....Sandy City
Milligan, DaveHMI
Morris, Ron..... Utah Department of Public Safety/DES
Serniak, Steve U.S. Air Force
Stever, Mike.....Salt Lake City L.E.P.C.
Swenson, Robert Summit County Emergency Management
Taylor, Nadine Utah Department of Public Safety/DES
Taylor, Neil..... Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR
Thiriot, Steven..... Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR
Willden, Randy Murray City Fire Department
Yarrington, Jared..... U.S. Air Force

WELCOME/OVERVIEW.....Brad Johnson

On Tuesday, September 6, 2005, at 11:30 a.m., a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) meeting was held at the State Capitol Room Cafeteria, Capitol Hill East Office Building. Brad Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

■ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the July 12, 2005, meeting were distributed and reviewed by the SERC Commission. A motion was made by Ron Morris and seconded by Brian Garrett that the SERC meeting minutes be approved. The Commission then unanimously approved the meeting minutes with no changes.

■ **INTRODUCTIONS**

As part of the meeting, introductions of the SERC Commission and the attendees of the meeting were conducted.

■ **U.S. AIR FORCE ICBM EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM Jared Yarrington**

Captain Jared Yarrington, Hill Air Force Base (HAFB) Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Emergency Response Program Manager, briefly explained for the Commission the Propulsion Emergency Response Program for HAFB. As part of this explanation, Mr. Yarrington gave a presentation outlining this program. [A copy of this presentation was distributed to the Commission and is available at the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) offices.]

Brent Everett asked what the life expectancy was of the solid fuel that is used in the missiles. Captain Steve Serniak explained that it is difficult to assess how long the fuel will really last, but that it is approximately 15 years.

Mr. Morris inquired about if there are any identification markings on the side of the transport vehicles that carry the fuel for the missiles in case of an emergency situation. Captain Serniak stated that the transports are marked appropriately, that they have manifests clearly marking what is actually being transported, that the fuel is self-contained, contain leak detectors, and can withstand limited impacts in order for anyone that is responding to an emergency situation involving the transport can avoid exposure to the extent possible.

Mr. Morris then asked if the drivers of the transport vehicle are specially trained in order to transport the fuel. Captain Yarrington explained that the drivers have the basic driving training for the types of transports they drive, but also have to attend a 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response program, and specific trainings put on by the Air Force.

DeeEll Fifield asked if the emergency response program is based out of HAFB for the entire nation. Captain Serniak stated that for ICBMs, the emergency response does come out of HAFB.

Mr. Fifield then questioned if the Air Force runs any exercises with any outside agencies. Captain Yarrington answered in the affirmative by stating that the Air Force has quarterly

exercises in which other agencies do take part. In fact, a recent exercise was conducted with the Nevada Highway Patrol, while the next one is scheduled at the Utah Testing Range. It was also stated that if anyone is interested in participating in an exercise, please contact Captain Yarrington.

Mr. Fifield continued on by asking that when the fuel is being transported, are there additional security details that travel with the transports. Captain Serniak answered in the negative as most of the incidents that have taken place deal with test motors without any propellant in them.

Mr. Fifield then asked if there are any of these test motors stored at HAFB. Captain Serniak explained that there is large number of test motors that are currently being stored there at HAFB.

■ **PARK CITY MERCURY RESPONSESteven Thriot**

Steven Thriot, Site Assessment Section Manager for the DERR, informed the Commission that part of the DERR's responsibility is to receive notifications of environmental incidents/spills and then direct them to the agency that is in the best position to handle that incident. A few weeks ago, the DERR received a call regarding a mercury spill in a private residence located in Park City, Utah. The incident was regarding a small puddle of mercury that was found under the carpet inside the entry of a home. The Summit County Health Department was able to remove at least the visible part of this mercury. The DERR requested that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) get involved and conduct a removal evaluation on the property. Using mercury vapor meters, they were able to conclude that the mercury vapor readings were greatly in excess of risk-based levels, which posed a threat to the residents. The cleanup of this incident has now occurred. However, the DERR is concerned about the increasing number of mercury incidents that are occurring in the state. There have been approximately seven incidents that have occurred within the last year. Some of these cleanups have used a tremendous amount of money in order to clean them up. Private homeowners insurance usually have exclusions for environmental spills. An idea that came out of this cleanup was the possible need for Household Hazardous Waste Collections to occur outside the Wasatch Front in order to reduce the availability of mercury in future spills occurring in residences. Also, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality has recently purchased a mercury vapor meter to be used in responding to incidents of this nature.

Robert Swenson also commented that Summit County feels that there are many more areas that could possibly have mercury contamination.

Captain Yarrington asked if there was any idea as to what the source was of this mercury. Mr. Thriot stated that no source was found at the conclusion of the cleanup. However, the area of the incident is a historical mining area. Also, one of the previous owners worked for the Park City Water Department. Nevertheless, the source of the mercury is still unknown.

■ **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CONTINGENCY PLANNING
SEPTEMBER 26-30, 2005.....DeeEll Fifield**

Mr. Fifield informed the Commission that a Hazardous Materials Contingency Planning course has been scheduled for September 26-30, 2005, in St. George, Utah. This course is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and is filling up rather quickly. It will give a solid foundation on emergency planning and how to handle emergencies that may arise. If anyone is interested in attending this course, you can sign up for it on the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DES) website at www.des.utah.gov. Mr. Fifield also stated that the DES is also in negotiations to hold their 2006 Intermountain Hazardous Materials conference in Wendover, Utah. The Tooele County Sheriff's Office has volunteered to sponsor this conference. This conference will also be combined with the Annual Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) workshop. The DES is also working with the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services to see if they would like to provide training as part of the conference.

Dave Milligan then informed the Commission that HMI is conducting Hazardous Materials Technician Level Program courses throughout the next year. There are 3 stages within this course and gives nearly 300 hours of training for the Technician Level. Other classes that HMI is also conducting include Chemistry II and Hazardous Materials Incident Management courses. It was also stated that if anyone had any areas that they would like HMI to conduct classes on to please contact Mr. Milligan. A calendar of the upcoming courses was then distributed to the Commission. (A copy of this calendar is available at the DERR offices.)

■ **DISCUSSION ON PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE
DIRECTIN OF THE SERC IN UTAH.....Brad Johnson**

Mr. Johnson explained that in the last SERC meeting, the Commission held some discussions regarding the role of the SERC and what the Commission should be doing. This topic of the evolution of the SERC has been going on for approximately a year. Suggestions have been made to modify the membership of the Commission in order to expand it. Through the changes in society within the last few years, the SERC has also evolved and started to look at things from a different standpoint in order to ensure that the State of Utah has an organization that is as efficient as possible and does the things that are necessary so that if an incident does occur, that the State is prepared to respond accordingly. To continue on with this discussion, Mr. Johnson requested to know what the needs are of the people that are involved with the Commission and how they visualize the SERC functioning.

Terry Grover stated that it would probably be appropriate for the scope of the SERC to venture or expand into a Commission that has expertise in all of the different disciplines in order to be prepared to deal with any and all types of hazards, such as the disaster that occurred with Hurricane Katrina. The DES and the DERR could still chair the Commission, but that it would be appropriate to be prepared for any type of situation the state might face. Mike Stever also added that this could be a beneficial approach. In fact, the Salt Lake City LEPC has recently

done this by adapting their committee to be able to handle any type of hazard that may occur. However, one concern that needs to be considered is that if an all hazards approach is taken, how will it fit in the organization of emergency response and with all of the other federal, state, and local governmental agencies. The structure and role of each agency would need to be clarified. Another concern that would need to be considered is that it would need to be ensured that all disciplines are complimented with each other and are available to all areas of the State of Utah and not limited to a particular area.

Ken Kraudy stated that a problem being encountered by the Sandy City LEPC is the requirement for reporting Tier II hazardous chemicals and the toxic release inventory. It seems as if different LEPCs, such as the Salt Lake County LEPC versus the Sandy City LEPC, report the same type of information when reporting these figures. The SERC could assist in precluding this problem by identifying specific ways of reporting the information and who is ultimately responsible for doing so.

Mr. Fifield then commented that as the Commission is looking at the possibility of restructuring, they are also looking at what funding options are available for the various LEPCs within the state. As of right now, 40 out of the 50 states are funded. However, the State of Utah is not one of them. One possible funding mechanism to help with this issue could be to see if some sort of fee could be assessed for the cleanups of possible sites where an incident has occurred. Mr. Stever commented that if this were going to take place, then the LEPC jurisdiction would need to be identified so that not every city will form its own LEPC to get their share of the funds that would be available.

Mr. Fifield then stated that another possibility would be to see if the State of Utah has the ability to assess Tier II or transportation fees, as some of the other states within the nation are already doing. If these fees were assessed, it would be anticipated 80% of those funds would go to the LEPCs, while 20% would go to the DERR to help fund their activities in receiving and processing the Tier IIs and the toxic release inventory, and to the DES to help with the management of the LEPCs and coordinating exercises/trainings.

Mr. Fifield then explained that the Commission is also trying to see if they could set up a fund in order to provide for the long-term maintenance and up-keep of all the equipment that is used throughout the state in handling emergency situations. They are also going to see if the SERC could be empowered to have cost control for emergency situations. Since each city within the state have different cost recovery ordinances when an incident occurs, setting a universal standard or reasonable rate statewide would be fair and equitable for all agencies involved.

In summary, Mr. Johnson stated that some "draft" legislation has been put together detailing some of the topics discussed in the meeting. As such, the DES and the DERR are currently looking over the legislation and are making some modifications. However, the primary goal is to solicit input on this legislation from all of the different agencies that it may affect. Once it was approved by all of the varying agencies, it would then come to the point where the SERC would

find a State Legislator that would be willing to sponsor it and then to move forward in the Legislative process to be passed. The existing statute, which establishes the two person SERC, generally describes their responsibilities. However, this new legislation would entail a drastic and dramatic change to the whole program.

■ **OTHER BUSINESS**.....

No other business was conducted during the SERC meeting.

■ **NEXT MEETING**.....

The next SERC meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8, 2005. It will be held in room 201 at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Building #2, 168 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah.

■ **ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.