

Nevada State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

RAD Committee Meeting

November 10, 2020

9:00 am until 10:30 pm

State Emergency Response Commission
Zoom Conference

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:

Mr. Jon Bakkedahl, Chairperson-SERC Commissioner
Mr. Eric Santos-SERC Commissioner
Mr. Jeremy Hynds-Henderson Emergency Management
Mr. Felix Acevedo-VA Emergency Manager
Ms. Tiffany Gamero-Department of Energy
Ms. Sarah Hartson-RPM DOE
Mr. Patrick Halligan-LVMPD Armor
Mr. Augustine "Gus" Farias-Sonoma Home Health
Mr. Karl Rosette-LVFR HazMat Training Captain
Mr. Eric Millette-Sparks Fire/HazMat

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Christina Wilson, SERC Coordinator
Ms. Brandi Salisbury, SERC Administrator
Mr. Nathan Hastings, State Deputy Attorney General

The Committee may take action on items marked "Discussion/For Possible Action". Items may be taken out of the order presented on the agenda at the discretion of the chairperson. Items may be combined for consideration by the Committee at the discretion of the chairperson. Items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time.

1. CALL TO ORDER (Non-action Item)

Ms. Christina Wilson: Opened the meeting at 9:08 AM.

2. ROLL CALL, CONFIRM QUOR AND INTRODUCTIONS (Non-action Item)

Ms. Christina Wilson: Conducted a roll call. A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-action Item)

There were no public comments.

4. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS (CONOPS) AND SUSTAINMENT PLAN (Discussion Possible Action)** –This discussion will center on the current, approved CON OPS and the Sustainment Plan. Both are due for review and revision to the content, and the SERC RAD committee is responsible for the review and approval of future revisions. The documents will be maintained on the FTP site for SERC in a read-only version.

Chair Bakkedahl explained these documents are from 2018. They were reviewed last year as we released them for 2019. No action was taken on those, so the current operating version is the ones on the FTP site. The sustainment plan is the shorter more concise document on equipment training exercise processes and then the concept of operations is just that, the operations document for call downs, reactions, tactical operations, for different radiological scenarios in the state.

The RAD Committee reviewed each page of the Sustainment Plan and made suggested changes, and deletions. The Sustainment Plan will need to be approved and signed off by the administrator or the chief at Division of Emergency Management (DEM). SERC staff and the Chair will compile all of the recommended changes and distribute to Committee for final comment. After all the changes have been incorporated to the Sustainment Plan it will be signed off at DEM. This will take a couple of meeting to get everything approved. The Sustainment Plan needs the appropriate people documented, even if it's not by name but by correct phone number and organizational structure kind of information, contact information. We also have a new one in the north liaison to the WMD coordinator down there.

Chair Bakkedahl asked that if the committee has any additional changes to the Sustainment Plan to directly email Christina Wilson, so they can be incorporated. The final draft will be sent out to everybody and another meeting will be schedule. Everyone will have an opportunity to review these documents in final draft, so they can be approved in early 2021.

Chair Bakkedahl moved to the CON OPS for the Committee to review. If the Committee knows of a POC that has changed in the document, specifically that needs to be amended or is missing information, then we'll make those changes. This document has a call down structure, if we can leave it to positions and contact information but a lot of times, especially this type of document, we're looking for cellphones and specific people. The Committee reviewed each page for suggested changes. All changes need to be submitted to Christina by the close of business on December 31st. Christina and Chair Bakkedahl will meet in early January and get this back out to everyone. The appropriate changes will be made and immediately be made available on the FTP site. We will coordinate another meeting in the first quarter of next year to finalized and move forward.

5. **RAD COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO TRAIN JURISDICTIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE ON THE BASES AND USE OF THE DOCUMENTS (Discussion Only)**
– Discussion with committee to explain the Radioactive Materials License at DEM and the contractors hired to conduct training and exercise. Contractors will also perform calibrations of radiological detection equipment.

Chair Bakkedahl stated we've got some discussion opportunity here on utilizing you guys as being part of this committee and understanding the documents to make sure at LEPC meetings that other committee or jurisdictional meetings that agencies or a political committee like a city, county or tribe may have on the documents. It's a lot easier to do this by committee than me being the person that's trying to coordinate this information. We have the opportunity here to use this as a stepping stone once the document is completed, reissue the documents to all of the LEPCs and then trickle it down from there in coordination. Training on the radioactive materials and capabilities, so now currently the Division of Emergency Management has a radioactive materials license as does Las Vegas Metro Armor so we both have sources at both of our locations. We can do so many different layers now of document training, in-person training and exercises, any planning assistance for people's documents they can utilize our document, the state document to either whittle it down into a local document or just utilize this as the state RAD plan to reduce the amount of workload different agencies are doing. Several LEPCs are in the current pact of amending their hazardous materials plans so you've got a full lay operational RAD and OP strategy here. We do have a contractor that's been hired. He works for DEM, doing calibrations with the company the last couple of years and then I'm getting ready to bring out another contractor for next year to assist with the statewide calibrations. He will be part-time basis to assist with the calibrations and some training.

Anybody have a desire to assist more than what we've currently been doing as a committee? Please reach out to me, anything that you would like to do in participation of this and we can make sure that we have everybody playing on the same field, sharing the same information. Again, that'll be the updated version to these documents and then the availability for training support both in the north and the south with live radioactive sources for whether it be, small training like a drill or they meet up for a big functional full-scale exercise or other exercise capability, planning assistance for RAD exercises with building [inaudible 01:26:52] or exercise plans. I want to get people involved and have this be a true committee doing more things than just meeting on a not-so-routine basis lately and have people operational and out supporting the program. So, reach out to me, send me an email on your capability, your desires, what you would like to do. We can assist in getting you trained up in a lot of different fashions. We will fund that and make sure that we can continue to operate this important mission for the state.

6. **I-80 WIPP SHIPMENTS (Discussion Only)** - Discuss the WIPP shipments, escorted by NHP, completed this year and the plans for additional shipments in the spring of 2021.

Chair Bakkedahl discussed that the Division of Emergency Management went out and

trained and did an exercise across the I-80 corridor in four different communities in Washoe County with the Triad Fire Agencies and local fire as well as in Winnemucca, Humboldt County, Elko County, city and county of Elko and then West Wendover City on the border of Elko and Utah. DEM did a series of MERRT classes, the Modular Emergency Radiological Response Training, transportation training. We did three classes in Reno for the three different agencies of fire. We did two for the Nevada Highway Patrol in Winnemucca, Humboldt County. We did a full MERRT class on the weekend and did an exercise for them as well with live sources. Then, in Elko we did some more classes, two for fire and two for Highway Patrol and in West Wendover we did a full MERRT class on the weekend for their voluntary fire and their couple of paid fire folks in ramping up for the Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant or true waste shipments that started about two months ago. They did six weeks of shipments across the I-80 corridor, very successful, did it in convoy fashion where they would release one truck at a time with three type B containers on it. They rallied up at the state line of Nevada and California at Garson Road which is out by the Bass Pro Shop. They acquired all three trucks in one location, did a level 6 inspection. NHP escorted them across the highway. They switched escorts from east to west or west to east I should say, halfway across the state and the Elko branch picks them up and then finishes the escort across the state. There was no issues, no reports of any bad weather, no nothing. It went very smooth. The operation has been halted until spring, so we've already had our first major winter storm this past weekend. There is a plan to continue it in mid-spring and start pushing the shipments again to finish out the removal of the transuranic waste out of Lawrence Livermore National Labs in California. Additional information, Las Vegas actually had a shipment go across the rail in southern Nevada so this was a large vat from San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant in California. It was put through Las Vegas via rail, then taken off of the rail out at the apex and five tractor trailers were utilized to push and pull the single vessel. I believe two pulled and three pushed, it was so large and heavy and closed the highway down and NHP escort took multiple days to get through Nevada and even longer to get into its final resting in Utah. That's the waste shipments that have happened in the rural areas and the urban area, just not the test site vicinity. The Nevada National Security site continues to receive low-level A shipments in multiple different types. So, does anybody have any comments, questions about any of those waste shipments that have been happening?

Mr. Eric Santos: Asked what is the frequency of the shipments? Is there anything that's monthly or just as-needed?

Chairperson Bakkedahl: Stated it is as-needed. The Department of Energy has multiple different sites that actually generate the waste and that's what they call them, is generators. There are 27 facilities around the country which are currently receiving different materials and depositing around different areas around the United States. From the DEM side, we like to do the preparedness. We do training and exercises and planning coordination with the jurisdictions so that they're ready. The Radiation Control Program is the office of record delegated by the Governor that all of the notifications are sent to. They get a notification when something is coming into the state. Them, as well as me and a couple of other people around the state have access to one of the Department of Energy's notification systems that we can log into their website and we can look when shipments are coming and where they're coming from and what's on those shipments so we have an idea what's going into the site on a routine basis. And

then, when there is large things like that vessel, the pressure vessel that went through Las Vegas or there's another program that's getting ready to start where the Department of Energy is having some of the radio [inaudible 01:32:47] generators brought back into the United States, their DOE-owned property, so there's a big planning committee that works on that. And, that is run through the Governor's Office of Nuclear Projects. They coordinate the Radiation Control Program, the Division of Emergency Management and the Highway Patrol to make sure that everything is planned for, trained for, the notifications are made properly as well as NHP should they be doing any escorting or permitting for any of these loads, that all of that is in place. The Office of Nuclear Projects is the Governor's Office that kind of trickles down to several of us and then we work together in different groups. Last week, the Department of Energy held a meeting on those RTGs, the radio [inaudible 01:33:35] generators on what's going to happen, when it's happening, where they're coming from, there was Q&A opportunity for everyone to voice any concerns, make sure everybody's ready for it, all that kind of information and that the loads are permitted. One of them will be highway route controlled. They're going around Las Vegas and going through the typical Pahrump entrance into the site to be buried. They're coming into South Carolina via ship and then they'll be driven across the country, a very common shipping courier for the Department of Energy. It's called [inaudible 01:34:10] and then they'll be depositing those shipments into the test site. The coordination is already happening. They'll be on the road next week. NHP, no escort, just permitting because one of them is a highway route controlled shipment and has such a high level of activity to it that they have special permitting and notifications for it.

Anybody else have any questions on any of the other RAD or waste shipments by the Department of Energy or any other shipments that have been happening? Hearing none.

- 7. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-action Item)** – No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. Public comments are limited to three minutes unless the Committee elects to extend the comments for purposes of further discussion. Comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint.

Mr. Eric Santos: Stated he was sorry to kind of prolong this meeting, just trying to increase my knowledge and understanding. As far as the detection throughout the state, I'm just trying to understand. How do the equipment at the hospitals, universities, dental offices, do they have any I guess baseline RAD levels that's looked at for any variance or are they even, just looking at their impacts for this whole strategy or just how they play in or out of the detection?

Chairperson Bakkedahl: Stated they are involved. We actually have done exercises this year. For instance, the one we did in Humboldt County, Winnemucca, they actually transported materials all the way to the emergency room and they were fully donned in PPE. They received a "contaminated" dummy, a patient, and had to control the scene. They had to go through their policy and procedure to make sure they wouldn't

contaminate and take down their entire facility, decon the patient, medically treat them and continue to move them through their medical triage processes. We've done this in southern Nevada and northern Nevada multiple times. About every two years, we hold training classes for all of the healthcare facilities. We have everybody from housekeeping to the emergency physicians on hand. We bring physicians with us to talk doctor to doctor and then we bring two technical people to go through a couple of hours in the morning, usually about four to five hours of in-classroom didactic training and then we do, in the afternoon, an actual exercise with live sources so that they get to fully go through how their equipment works, their policies and procedures. We bring in local emergency responders because they're the ones that are going to be bringing these contaminated patients with them. Last time we did it was just over two years ago in southern Nevada. There is a current request for it but with COVID there's been a little bit of a holdup. So, UMC, Centennial Hills and Sunrise hosted the last one. We'll be looking for two to three facilities to host the same type of training again and then in northern Nevada we did it last year and we did it at Renown twice and St. Mary's once. And, same processes, they go through everything of the classroom training for refresher. They get medical continued education units for it and then we do the hands-on live exercise in the afternoon. It's about a 10-hour day is what it turns into and then they get their certificates in the mail later. They're actually heavily involved. Our big gap, and it's nationally, is the EMS providers. A private EMS provider like AMR in Las Vegas, or REMSA in northern Nevada, that's the gap and, like I said, it's a national gap. Responders are very comfortable in their training and what they're doing. The hospitals are very comfortable in their training and what they're doing. It's transportation of a contaminated patient seems to ruffle a lot of feathers. We've been working on that. We held training classes just for them in the south and just for them in the north and then we try to get them integrated as well into both the responder classes and the first receiver, the hospital classes so that everybody's on the same page. It's been difficult and, like I said, it's a national issue. They'll contaminate somebody covered in horrible chemicals and acids and biologicals but when you say RAD, the brakes go on, the lights come off and they say sorry, we're not putting that in our vessel. We've been working on this for a number of years to build that comfort level and it's getting there. We now have participation in the, the classes but it is a national problem, especially transporting them by air. That is not only a no but a hell no and, you know what, if you're the one that's contaminated with something and you have life-threatening injuries whether it's due to the RAD or not, you would like to know that you're going to be transported in a timely manner to be taken care of and that's the agenda we try to push as we move into this, get people comfortable with RAD and enforce the policies and procedures as well as the federal standing, like in the emergency response guide book, all that type of information to make people more comfortable in what they're doing.

I need help. That's my beg for people to be more involved because for the last several years it's been me and then some friends from the Department of Energy that I've been able to bring in and do training for people and it's always good to see familiar faces but it's always good to get other people's stance and training on things as well. I always look for people that understand the materials and are willing to participate and help and we're getting there. We've got a few more people that are willing to support and be involved but it's a long arduous process and it takes a high trained level. We just don't want any Joe off the street in our real-world experiences and your classroom training and then being able to train people. Now, being able to do it and being able to train

people are two different things. We're really looking for those that can get the training across to the individual at the level to which they're learning as well.

8. ADJOURNMENT (Discussion/For Possible Action)

MR. HYNDS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. SANTOS. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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