

# Minutes

## Nevada State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

### Fourth Quarterly Meeting

December 09, 2021 – 9:00am

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Richard Brenner called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

#### 2. ROLL CALL, CONFIRM QUORUM, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Role was taken of members and a quorum was present.

##### **Members Present:**

Carolyn Levering  
Danny Brennen  
David Sellen (not in attendance)  
Debra Dailey  
Dennis Nolan, Co-Chair  
Eric Santos  
"Gus" Augustine Farias  
James Clay Madsen (not in attendance)  
Jon Bakkedahl  
Karen Luna  
Kelly Thomas (not in attendance)  
Kimberly Ferguson  
Lance Chantler  
Michael Mallner  
Richard Brenner, Co-Chair  
Susan Crowley  
"TJ" Monteviest Qualls

Nathan Hastings, DAG  
Tami Beauregard, SERC Administrator

##### **Guests:**

Tiffany Gamero – US DEEM  
Department of Energy Environmental Management

##### **Local LEPC Members Present:**

Jason Danen – Carson County  
Billy Samuels – Clark County  
Karen Taylor – Clark County  
Jason Moyer – Clark County  
Carlito Rayos – Clark County  
Michael Heidemann – Churchill County  
Patty Brownfield – Esmeralda County  
Joyce Jeppesen – Eureka County  
Carol Lynn – Humboldt County  
Rochelle Pique – Humboldt County  
MeShell Young – Lander County  
Derek Bowman – Lincoln County  
Patrick Hughes – Mineral County  
Lara Mather – Storey County  
Honey Tapley – Storey County  
Brian Taylor – Washoe County  
Kelly Echeverria – Washoe County  
Brett North – White Pine County

##### **Federal / State Agencies:**

William Gardner - NV OSHA  
Greg Bazley - EPA Region 9  
Marcie Stone - DHS  
Mark Shugart – FEMA (not in attendance)  
Kris Haines - FEMA

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brenner called for public comment. There were none.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 09, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Susan Crowley made a motion to approve the September 09, 2021 SERC Third Quarterly Meeting minutes. Jon Bakkedahl seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

#### **5. NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

##### **SERC Commissioners**

Mr. Brenner noted Nevada Boards and Commissions is responsible to appoint new members to the SERC.

Mr. Brenner noted James Morgan has submitted his application and is waiting to hear if approved or not.

Mr. Brenner noted Paul Patocka has not submitted an application. Dennis Nolan stated that Mr. Patocka had submitted his application and was going to follow up to see if there was anything he needed to do.

Mr. Brenner noted Steven Spencer has submitted an application and is waiting to hear if approved or not.

Mr. Brenner noted Jason Nicholl applied but did not go through the SERC. Mr. Brenner stated Tami Beauregard has reached out to Mr. Nicholl to inquire if he is still interested in being a SERC Commissioner.

Mr. Brenner noted he reached out to Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department and he has submitted an application and is waiting to hear if approved or not.

Mr. Brenner noted Jack Snyder, Elko County was going to submit an application.

Mr. Brenner noted LVMPD, Christopher Tomaino was approved as a Commissioner, by the Governor's Office, but Mr. Bakkedahl mention Mr. Tomaino has since retired. Mr. Brenner added Mr. Tomaino needs to be removed from the Boards and Commissions list.

Ms. Beauregard stated that the end date for Lance Chantler is 2024, not 2020.

Mr. Brenner reviewed the Commissioner List attachment.

Eric Santos questioned how a Commissioner renews their appointment. Ms. Beauregard stated she will find out the details and forward the all the Commissioners.

## **Committee Membership**

Mr. Brenner reviewed the Committee Membership attachment.

Mr. Brenner noted Matt Greigco has retired and now there is a vacancy for the Chair of the Funding Committee. If anyone is interested in being the chair, or being a member of a committee, to let Ms. Beauregard know. Mr. Brenner added it is much easier for the Funding Committee to review the grant applications and provide a recommendation to the SERC.

Mr. Brenner questioned the Commissioners as to why there is an asterisk next to Ed Ericson's name under the Radiological Committee. Mr. Bakkedahl noted that Mr. Ericson assists remotely on the meetings and does provide feedback on the planning efforts and less than a year left before retiring. It was decided that the asterisk can be removed.

## **6. SERC YEARLY TIMELINE UPDATE**

Mr. Brenner reviewed the SERC Yearly Timeline attachment.

Mr. Brenner noted that he is a person that needs organization and likes knowing what meetings are coming up a year out making it easier to make plans. Ms. Crowley also noted that she appreciates the timeline for planning purposes.

Karen Taylor, Clark County questioned which SERC applications are due in March. Ms. Beauregard clarified the SERC OPTE applications are due in March.

Patty Brownfield, Esmeralda County added the timeline makes is very easy for the LEPCs to know when they need to start working on the grants.

Ms. Taylor stated the grant applications need to be on the SERC website about two months prior to the due date. Mr. Brenner agreed.

Lance Chantler questioned the timing between the Funding Committee meeting and the SERC Quarterly Meeting noting if the Funding Committee requests items from the LEPC, the LEPC may not have enough time to get the information for the SERC meeting. Mr. Brenner stated that Ms. Beauregard will review the applications prior to the Funding Committee to make sure all information is there. Mr. Brenner also noted the SERC OPTE grant applications are very straight forward and the Funding Committee should not have too many issues.

Dennis Nolan suggested the attachment be added to the website in addition to adding the Committee meeting dates to the SERC calendar.

Ms. Crowley made a motion to approve the Yearly Calendar document, knowing edits will be needed as meetings take place in 2022. Mr. Nolan seconded the motion which approved unanimously.

## 7. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) UPDATES

Carson County – Jason Danen stated a LEPC meeting was held in December, and they are up to date with all the LEPC meetings. Mr. Danen added the county is busy trying to get past COVID, status quo. Mr. Bakkedahl stated he attended the LEPC meeting, as Department of Emergency Management (DEM) is trying to be more integrated with the counties. Mr. Bakkedahl noted the Carson County LEPC went over a ton of stuff: finalized their hazard mitigation grant and are now FEMA compliant; local emergency response plan was approved and due to DEM by the end of the year; all other LEPC compliances are up to date; had a very comprehensive meeting with great participation. Mr. Brenner asked if the meeting was in person. Mr. Danen stated the meeting was an in person meeting with about ten to twelve in attendance.

Churchill County – Michael Heidemann stated a LEPC meeting was held in November and updates to their plan were approved. Mr. Heidemann added there is a new training officer at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, which will be good in helping with training, as the county will be included in the NAS training each month. Mr. Brenner asked if the meeting was in person. Mr. Heidemann noted the meeting was both Zoom and in person, with the majority of participation being in person.

Clark County – Billy Samuels stated the LEPC is currently up to date on all their meetings for the year, the hazard mitigation plan has been completed and New Year's Eve is coming up with about 400,000 people anticipated. The Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MAAC) will be activated that night as will most of the jurisdictions and coordination is happening with multiple tabletops. Ms. Taylor added Clark County is working on their hazard mitigation plan with it going out to Request for Proposal (RFP), which has closed. Carlito Rayos noted three exercises have been completed since the last SERC meeting. Mr. Rayos added the LEPC is doing considerable work with Air Liquide with the focus being on liquid hydrogen. Mr. Rayos stated at the last LEPC meeting their county hazmat plan was submitted with changes. Mr. Rayos continued with the valley has been broken up into four different regions and aligning them with industry, which allows the LEPCs to do what they are supposed to be doing, being in compliance with EPCRA. Mr. Rayos also noted the valley has adopted Primary Response Incident Scene Management (PRISM) of their preferred method as mass decontamination; and PRISM has been approved by Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Brenner asked if the meeting was in person or a Zoom combination. Mr. Rayos stated the last meeting was mostly in person. Mr. Brenner asked Carolyn Levering if she would like to add anything with regards to the City of Las Vegas. Ms. Levering noted the only thing she would add is they are excited to add PRISM.

Esmeralda County – Patty Brownfield noted they are done with the required meetings and have met all the year-end requirements. Ms. Brownfield reminded everyone about the SERC OPTE requirements. Ms. Brownfield noted she is not up to date on the training, as they lost their training officer.

Humboldt County – Carol Lynn introduced herself as brand new to the county. Ms. Lynn noted the last LEPC meeting was held in November. Ms. Lynn stated they have their hazmat manual review and update completed with all other SERC requirements completed to submit, and FEMA has approved their tri-county hazard mitigation plan. Rochelle Piquet added with regards to the United We Stand grant the equipment has been ordered and with regards to the SERC/OPTE grant she will need to follow up with the hospital with a status. Mr. Brenner asked if the meetings are in person. Ms. Lynn noted the meeting was blended with in person and virtual.

Lander County – MeShell Young noted she is also new to the position. Ms. Young added they are meeting in person with a few by phone. Ms. Young expressed the desire to get better at grants but will have all SERC compliance documentation ready to send in by the end of January.

Lincoln County – Derek Bowman stated all LEPC meetings have been held with the last meeting being in October, there was about fifteen people in attendance, and it was a hybrid meeting, with about half in person. Mr. Bowman added their hazmat plan has been updated and sent off to DEM. Mr. Bowman noted they are in the process of closing out the year and getting all the documentation ready to send to the SERC.

Mineral County – Patrick Hughes noted they had a LEPC meeting yesterday where all the SERC documentation was to be approved and will be turned in by the end of January. Mr. Hughes stated the Fire Chief is in charge of scheduling training and has not been notified as to what he has done yet. Mr. Hughes added the equipment for the SERC/OPTE should arrive the next week and will close out the grant by the end of the year. Mr. Hughes also noted the meetings are combined, with in person and virtual at about half of each.

Eureka County – Joyce Jeppesen noted the equipment has been ordered for the SERC/OPTE grant and is making sure the location will be ready for installation. Ms. Jeppesen added all the LEPC meetings have been met with good quorums and in person.

Storey County – Lara Mather stated they are working on the annual report, and it will be ready for the end of January deadline. Ms. Mather added Storey County is updating their website and the LEPC portion will be updated as well. Ms. Mather noted she is working on expanding the LEPC committee, she is meeting with the businesses at the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center and there should be five new members at the next meeting in January, which will be in person. Ms. Mather is also working with the Storey County Fire Protection District to expand training.

Washoe County – Kelly Echeverria noted they are working on their annual Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW), which takes place after the LEPC meeting in December. Ms. Echeverria stated they have located two new EOC locations and are working to stock and test them. Ms. Echeverria added the new LEPC leadership will be voted on during the next meeting and approving all SERC compliance documents. Ms. Echeverria is working to close out the current

HMEP grant, the SERC/OPTE and UWS grants are moving forward with no concerns. Mr. Brenner asked if the LEPC meetings are being held in person. Ms. Echeverria noted December will be the first in person meeting, but both options are offered. Mr. Brenner asked Mr. Nolan about the FireShowsWest conference. Mr. Nolan said the new venue at the Sparks Nugget was a good location but not enough space for the external exercises, lectures were good, and the event was not as well attended as pre COVID. Mr. Heidemann stated the bid for FireShowsWest is being negotiated with Grand Sierra Resort (GSR) to have the next show there. Mr. Heidemann added the venue at the Nugget was right for this year with the fires, COVID and a smaller vendor pool.

White Pine – Brett North stated they are up to date on all LEPC meetings and have been having them in person.

Tribal – Lance Chantler noted they are having their quarterly meeting next week. Crystal Harjo left the program, and they are actively working to fill the position. Mr. Chantler added they have been reaching out to their federal partners with regards to EPCRA. Mr. Bakkedahl stated the new National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) person is Josie Burnett.

## **8. NON-STATE AGENCY UPDATES**

- a. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Greg Bazley noted a tabletop exercise will be in Clark County with the Ammonia Safety Training Institute and Anderson Dairy. Mr. Bazley added they are looking to do an outreach with LEPCs to get a feel for what is needed, and the EPA would like to do half or full days in three areas of Nevada. Mr. Bazley stated the training EPA can provide is one on one, LEPC requirements and best practices, air monitoring capabilities in the event of a chemical release or chemical specific training. Mr. Bazley would like to schedule a brainstorming meeting in January 2022 and start the training in August 2022. Mr. Bakkedahl stated there is no federal overreach with this request.
- b. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Kris Haines, Visual Supervisor for COVID Operations in Nevada stated the FEMA administrator, Ms. Criswell issued the 2022 FEMA Strategic Plan with a focus on three areas – equity as a foundation in emergency management, the whole community climate resilience, and promote and sustain the ready FEMA and prepared nation. Mr. Haines noted the Federal Travel Liaison person is Crystal Harjo as she is with FEMA and a great resource. Mr. Haines added on the COVID front there is a full-time position to support requests.
- c. U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – Marcie Stone, Chief of Chemical Security, within the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) noted inspections have continued in the COVID environment. Ms. Stone discussed their new voluntary program called CHEMLOCK which has a robust website at [cisa.gov/chemlock](https://cisa.gov/chemlock). Ms. Stone stated this program allows DHS to provide services and resources to non-regulated facilities with high-risk chemicals of interest. Ms. Stone stated since the inception of the program

around twelve years ago over 40,000 facilities registered with CISA and about 3,300 are regulated. Ms. Stone also added a campaign they are currently promoting; is to be aware of phishing attempts during the holidays. Mr. Bakkedahl stated DHS hired another representative (Dr. Hayes) who is the Cyber Security Liaison for Nevada, who is working with Department of Public Safety (DPS) Cyber Security Office, Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS), the National Guard and the two Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) to help facilitate cyber analysis across the state with DEM helping to facilitate the new group.

## 9. STATE AGENCY UPDATES

- a. Nevada Highway Patrol Division (NHP) – Mr. Brenner noted NHP has a commercial section, and they report information on transport trucks on the highways with hazmat and radioactive material.
- b. Nevada State Fire Marshal Division (SFM) – Danny Brennan noted the Chief has nothing to pass on except happy holidays. Mr. Brennan added there are four training classes for state proctor evaluator starting in December 2021 through January 2022. Mr. Brennan reported he is retiring, and Nicole Hoekstra will be following him around for next ten months to learn what is needed to take over his slot. Mr. Brenner asked if the training classes are technician or operations. Mr. Brennan stated they are state proctor evaluator classes. Mr. Heidemann added the training classes have certain criteria to be met, proctor is the written portion and evaluator is the hands-on portion; the classes are to re-certify as a state proctor evaluator. Mr. Brenner asked if any hazmat classes have been scheduled. Mr. Brennan noted the four classes are the only scheduled training classes at this time. Mr. Brenner asked Mr. Brennan to give an update in January for hazmat training classes.
- c. Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) – no report as Kelly Thomas was unable to attend the meeting.
- d. Nevada Division of Industrial Relations, OSHA Unit – Bill Gardner stated they finished the initial stakeholder discussion regarding the wildfire smoke inhalation regulation to protect workers during wildfire season and the comments have been positive. Mr. Gardner stated they are in the early stages of reviewing the explosives and manufacturing and storage regulations, potential division. Mr. Gardner noted regarding the healthcare emergency temporary standard (ETS) set to expire in December and because the Federal Government is not enforcing it, neither will OSHA. Mr. Gardner also added because there is a federal stay on the vaccine mandate, OSHA is evaluating and do not plan to do anything independent of the Federal Government. Mr. Brenner asked if he is the point of contact for Nevada OSHA. Mr. Gardner said yes.

e. Nevada Division of Emergency Management & Nevada Radiation Control Program – Mr. Bakkedahl stated there is a new website (ntqs.nv.gov) which is a database (Nevada Training Qualification System) which allows individuals to sign up for classes. Mr. Bakkedahl stressed the importance of signing up as soon as possible because a profile needs to be built which includes the needed prerequisites. Mr. Bakkedahl added DEM reached a hundred percent of compliance on time with the resort plan submittals with the help of the Gaming Control Board. Mr. Bakkedahl also added the utilities are due on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Bakkedahl also noted DEM is working with the Utility Public Commission, NDEP, Governor's Office of Energy to help facilitate the new NRS language. Mr. Bakkedahl included Local (political) jurisdictions are also due on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Bakkedahl confirmed that FEMA took Crystal Harjo, however she is still in same building just switched cubicles, she is part of the FEMA Integrated Team which allows them to be more active in Nevada communities. Mr. Bakkedahl added Jose Burnett is the new Health Travel Coordinator; she is local, has experience with tribes, has worked for tribes in Nevada and has a good understanding of what they need. Mr. Bakkedahl stated the After-Action Report (AAR) from the Caldor fire is being worked on. Mr. Bakkedahl added the Naval Post Graduate Academy was contracted by FEMA to facilitate the AAR, for non-biased and candid comments. Mr. Bakkedahl also noted Washoe, Carson and Douglas counties were the heroes with regards to the evacuations, as it was the first time in Nevada's history the Governor relinquished authority for the mandatory evacuation. Mr. Bakkedahl added there was a big effort from NDOT, NHP, (now State Police), and the Nevada National Guard. Mr. Bakkedahl stated DEM is having the statewide Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) in the afternoon of December 16<sup>th</sup>, after Washoe County, this is the opportunity for every county, jurisdiction, agency to explain their training, exercise and planning efforts and communicate any assistance needed.

Mr. Bakkedahl stated the Rad Tech classes for Clark County are scheduled for December 2022. Mr. Bakkedahl added the calibrations being scheduled for April and May and will be on site, as to lessen the time without the equipment.

## **10. SERC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Brenner stated no SERC Committee has met since the last SERC meeting. Mr. Nolan stated in the new year, the SERC will need to start looking at legislative issues and BDRs. Mr. Nolan asked the Commissioners to send any ideas to him an email and copy Ms. Beauregard with any ideas. Mr. Brenner also noted the SERC needs to look at the NACs. Mr. Brenner stated the Funding Committee needs a chair. Mr. Rayos, Clark County expressed a desire to chair this committee. Mr. Brenner thanked Mr. Rayos for the offer and said he would contact him so they can discuss further.



## **11. REVIEW OF HMEP GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Ms. Beauregard reviewed HMEP grant application attachment noting three LEPCs submitted applications; Carson County, Story County and Clark County with three. Mr. Brenner added the HMEP grant funds come from the USDOT for the planning and training of hazardous materials. Ms. Beauregard explained the 'need A/R' column. Mr. Brenner did a synopsis of grant applications.

Ms. Daily made a motion to approve the grant applications. Mr. Nolan seconded the motion. Karen Luna asked if the motion needs to include the noted contingencies from the worksheet. Mr. Brenner stated Ms. Daily's motion will need to include the contingencies and HMEP approvals. Ms. Daily agreed to the motion change, as well as Mr. Nolan. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **12. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Ms. Beauregard provided an update for the State Emergency Response Commission.

- a. SERC Website – Ms. Beauregard noted she and Mr. Brenner have been working on correcting issues on the SERC website. Ms. Beauregard added she sent an email to all the LEPCs asking them to review their information on the website and the submitted corrections have been made. Ms. Beauregard asked if anyone notices an issue, to let her know.
- b. USDOT / HMEP – Ms. Beauregard stated there is around \$400,000 to spend between now and the end of September 2022. Ms. Beauregard noted she would like to put the HMEP mid-cycle applications on the SERC website in early January 2022. Ms. Beauregard also noted there will be two mid-cycle applications, one with Over Time / Back Fill and one without. Ms. Beauregard questioned if the procedure for the SERC's HMEP grant application to Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHSMA) is to have the LEPCs submit their planning/training requests for the three years.
- c. The search for a new SERC Assistant – Ms. Beauregard noted an interview was held this week; an offer was given but the candidate declined the position. Ms. Beauregard added the candidate was from within Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the next step is to announce the position statewide. Ms. Beauregard stated if the selected candidate is outside of DPS, a background check is required, potentially meaning the position will likely be filled in March of 2022.

## **13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Brenner called for public comment. There were none.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Nolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:10am. Ms. Crowley seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

DRAFT