

Meeting Minutes

Nevada State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 9:00am

The Commission 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 co-chairs. Items may be combined for consideration by the Commission at the discretion of the co-chairs. Items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time.

1. CALL TO ORDER (Non-Action Item)

- Richard Brenner called the meeting to order at 9:00AM

2. ROLL CALL, CONFIRM QUORUM, AND INTRODUCTIONS (Non-Action Item)

- Roll was taken and a quorum was present

3. 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 SERC elects to extend the comments for purposes of further discussion. Comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint.

- Mr. Brenner called for public comment. There was none.

4. APPROVAL OF JULY 10, 2024, MEETING MINUTES (Discussion / For Possible Action) – The SERC will review the April 24, 2024, meeting minutes; possible action may include approving, with or without amendments, or denying the minutes.

- Mr. Brenner called for a motion to approve the July 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Dennis Nolan carried the motion to approve the minutes. David Sellen seconded that motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

5. NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES (Discussion / For Possible Action) – Staff will provide any updates to the Commission on new members and vacancies in the various Committees since the previous meeting; possible action may include the SERC modifying the membership of Committees with additions or other changes, as necessary.

a. SERC Commissioners

- Mr. Brenner asked if there were any new SERC Commissioners. Ms. Baxter responded there were none.
- Tappan Cornmesser was appointed and gave a brief on himself and his career during the last committee meeting.

b. Committee Membership

- Steven Spencer mentioned he will no longer be part of the SERC Commission as he has taken a new position. Mr. Spencer stated his replacement is to be announced.
- Brandilyn Baxter stated that there are a few vacancies on each of our Committees. Ms. Baxter noted there is one vacancy on our Funding Committee, one vacancy on our Bylaws

Committee, two vacancies on our Planning and Training Committee and one vacancy on our policy Committee. Mr. Brenner welcomed and encouraged anyone to join if they are interested.

6. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) UPDATES (Non- Action Item) – This item includes and addresses updated reports from LEPC activities and Nevada Tribal Nations activities occurring since the last SERC quarterly meeting and any future activities.

- Mr. Brenner called upon each Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), on their updates since our last SERC Quarterly Meeting. A discussion took place for each LEPC:
 1. **Carson City** – There was no LEPC member present to report on Carson City.
 2. **Churchill County** – There was no LEPC member present to report on Churchill County.
 3. **Clark County** – Gary Stevenson noted there are no updates to report.
 4. **Douglas County** – Debbie Swickard noted there are no updates to report.
 5. **Elko County** – Daniel Hassett noted there are no updates to report.
 6. **Esmeralda County** – Patricia Brownfield mentioned their next meeting is next Wednesday October 16th, 2024, and they are working on their year-end items.
 7. **Eureka County** – There was no LEPC member present to report on Eureka County.
 8. **Humboldt County** – There was no LEPC member present to report on Humboldt County.
 9. **Lander County** – MeShell Young stated that their annual Food Pod is October 17th, 2024. They are working on their Hazmat mitigation plan that is due in October. They are also working on their annual report.
 10. **Lincoln County** – Ms. Baxter spoke on behalf of Lincoln County via an email she received from them. They mentioned that their LEPC has met three times this year. Their last meeting is at the end of October. They will be having a tabletop exercise in November focusing on the long-term effects power outages have on the county and hazardous materials.
 11. **Lyon County** – There was no LEPC member present to report on Lyon County.
 12. **Mineral County** -- There was no LEPC member present to report on Mineral County.
 13. **Nye County** – Scott Lewis noted that their next LEPC meeting is November 7th, 2024. They intend to address the after-action report for the recent lithium-ion battery fire they had.
 14. **Pershing County** – There was no LEPC member to report on Pershing County.
 15. **Storey County** – Jim Morgan noted that they have a Hazmat drill scheduled for October 17th, 2024. Mr. Morgan also stated that they hired their second full time employee for Emergency Management in July.
 16. **Washoe County** – Mr. Brenner noted that Washoe County is building a new Lithium-Ion Battery Plant. Dennis Nolan stated that Washoe County had a major wildland fire. Evacuation took place and the fire burned into Reno causing major power outages. Mr. Nolan also stated that there are multiple MCI training opportunities coming up.

17. White Pine County – There was no LEPC member present to report on White Pine County.

18. Nevada Tribal Nations – Lance Chantler reported that they are still waiting to hire employees for Nevada Tribal emergency Coordinating Council (NTECC.) There are no other updates to report.

7. NON-STATE AGENCY UPDATES (Non-Action Item) – This item includes and addresses updated reports from the agencies listed below regarding activities occurring since the last SERC quarterly meeting and any future activities. Reports may include:

a. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- There is no report from EPA.

b. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- Kris Haines mentioned FEMA has had several trainings, meetings and site visits over the last 6 months. Mr. Haines introduced the new FEMA Tribal Liaison, Josie Burnett.
- Josie gave us a little history about herself. She's been working for the county for a few months now and is excited to take on this new role.

c. U.S. Department of Homeland Security - (DHS)

- There is no report on DHS.

8. STATE AGENCY UPDATES (Non-Action Item) – This item includes and addresses updated reports from the agencies listed below regarding activities occurring since the last SERC quarterly meeting and any future activities. Reports may include:

a. Nevada State Police Highway Patrol Division (NHP) – Tappan Cornmesser

- Lt. Cornmesser stated that they were heavily involved with the Davis Fire. Lt. Cornmesser stated the Davis Fire had significant strain on Nevada Highway Patrol resources. Lt. Cornmesser mentioned the amount of lithium-ion battery fires they have been experiencing lately and the impact the fires have had on the resources that are available to them. Lt. Cornmesser is interested in having a future discussion about how emergency responders can obtain grant money from SERC to help obtain more resources for these fires.
- Mr. Brenner stated the SERC Team will reach out to him to create this discussion. Mr. Brenner noted if anyone else is interested in attending this discussion, to please reach out to SERC.
- Kelly Thomas mentioned he is interested in joining the discussion. Mr. Brenner assured him that SERC would include him.

b. Nevada State Police Fire Marshal Division (SFM) – Nicole Hoekstra

- Ms. Baxter spoke on behalf of Ms. Hoekstra via an email she received from her. Ms. Baxter stated there are no updates to report.

c. Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) – Kelly Thomas

- Mr. Thomas had no updates to report.

d. Nevada Division of Industrial Relations, OSHA Unit – Bill Gardner

- Mr. Gardner stated Nevada OSHA just finished their Process Safety Management (PSM) joint training with Washington, California and Oregon OSHA. NDEP joined them for this training. It will be held again in two years.

e. Nevada Division of Emergency Management – Brett Compston

- Brett Compston mentioned he is the new acting Chief of NDEM. Mr. Compston stated they are preparing for Nevada Day, the elections, Formula One and the New Years Eve celebration.
- Mr. Compston requested to be part of future SERC meetings.

f. Nevada Radiation Control Program –

- Corey Creveling mentioned there was a piece of Uranium found off Highway 95. Mr. Creveling stated the piece of Uranium was picked up by a program and he is currently working with his partners to see where it came from or where it belongs.
- Mr. Brenner asked Mr. Creveling to work with him to keep the Radiation Committee response plans updated.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (Discussion Only) – The following items may be addressed under this report:

- a. NRS updates – Ms. Baxter stated there are no NRS updates.
- b. Mr. Brenner asked if all LEPC's were in compliance.
- c. Ms. Baxter stated all LEPC's were compliant.

10. HMEP Grant Discussion (Discussion Only) – The following items may be addressed under this report.

- a. SERC will no longer be managing the HMEP grant. PHMSA is hoping another agency will take over all aspects involving HMEP funds available for Nevada.
 - Mr. Brenner and Ms. Baxter included that SERC does not have the manpower to keep up with this grant.
 - Mr. Compston asked about the grant history and how much funding Nevada will be losing.
 - Mr. Brenner and Ms. Baxter answered his question.
 - NDEM is showing a possible interest in this grant. SERC is more than happy to assist.

11. 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 SERC elects to extend the comments for purposes of further discussion. Comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint.

- Dennis Nolan transitioned out of clinical work at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and is now heading up the emergency management program.
- Mr. Nolan mentioned there is a bachelor's program that is all online. There are

grants available for this training. Mr. Nolan stated that if anyone is interested to please reach out to him.

- Mr. Chantler stated he received his appointing letter from the governor earlier this month for serving on the SERC. Mr. Chantler would like to congratulate Ms. Burnett on her new position.

12. ADJOURNMENT (Discussion / For Possible Action)

- Mr. Brenner called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lance Chantler carried that motion. Karen Luna seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45AM.

This is a public meeting. In conformance with the Nevada Public Meeting Law, I, Brandilyn Baxter on behalf of SERC posted or caused the posting of this agenda on or before July 1, 2024, 9:00am, at the following locations:

State Emergency Response Commission – 107 Jacobsen Way – Carson City
Nevada State Library & Archives – 100 North Stewart Street – Carson City
Grant Sawyer Building – 555 E. Washington Street – Las Vegas
Department of Transportation – 123 East Washington Avenue – Las Vegas
Department of Transportation – 1263 Stewart Street – Carson City
Department of Transportation – 1951 Idaho Street – Elko
Department of Transportation – 1401 East Aultman Street - Ely
Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau – 401 South Carson Street – Carson City
SERC web site – <http://serc.nv.gov>
Nevada Public Notice Website – <https://notice.nv.gov>

Pursuant to NRS 241.020(2) (c), a copy of supporting materials for the meeting may be obtained by contacting Brandilyn Baxter, Commission Administrator, State Emergency Response Commission at (775) 684-7511, 107 Jacobsen Way, Carson City, NV 89711 or serc@dps.state.nv.us

*We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify the State Emergency Response Commission at (775) 684-7511.
Twenty-four (24) hour advance notice is requested.*