

Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency

SERC Meeting

Monday, September 16, 2013

In Attendance:

Members:

Jamia McDonald – Dir. of RIEMA

Gina Friedman – RIDEM

Joseph Reppucci – Health

James Larisa – DLT

Bob Vanderslice – Health

Guests:

Bill Giannini – SERC TRNG CMTE

Frederick Stanley – RIAFC

Victor Lepore – RIDOT

Susan Mayo – Johnson & Wales Univ

Jim Gaffey – USEPA

Leo Messier – RIPCA

David DiMaio – Cranston Fire

Joe Arsenault – RPEM

Elise Jakabhazy – USEPA

E.S. Coutoulakis – Exeter EMA

Chris Albro – WFD

Jeffrey Varone – LEPC 2

Chris Harwood – Johnson & Wales Univ

Paul D’Abbreccio – RIEMA

Melinda Hopkins – RIEMA

David Eaton - RIEMA

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by Chair Jamia McDonald. She introduced herself and talked about the minutes of the last meeting, we will have to table them until we can get a copy. She turned it over to Paul D’Abbraccio and introductions were done as it has been 7 months since the last meeting. During the introductions there was reference to a subcommittee; Chair McDonald said she would like to look into which subcommittees have been established.

Old Business

1. School Clean up

Jim Gaffey from EPA discussed the Northland settlement; EPA alleged that Northland/PSC Environmental Services violated the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and state hazardous waste laws by failing to properly identify certain

hazardous wastes and failing to properly maintain hazardous waste tanks and containers. These alleged violations could have resulted in the release of hazardous wastes to the environment. The company also stored incompatible hazardous wastes next to one another, creating a potential for fire or explosions. The company quickly came into compliance after the violations were identified. They agreed to pay a fine of \$58,278 and to spend \$252,152 to clean hazardous chemicals out of approximately 60 high schools and middle schools within a 50-mile radius of their Providence facility where the violations occurred. Northland/PSC is responsible for doing the work. They send quarterly or semiannual reports. Clean outs have been going on for about a year now.

Gina Friedman, RIDEM, discussed how every three to four years there is a turnover of people. Even though EPA is managing SEP money, the long term emergency response to schools that don't comply still falls with the state and locals could we use grant money to give each school a copy of the Laboratory Safety Handbook? The schools need the requirements so that they do not repeat the accumulation of chemicals (this should be prior to clean-up and a requirement to participate). Each school is supposed to have a Chemical Hygiene Officer, a Chemical Hygiene Plan, must agree to not re-buy banned chemicals and not to buy large quantities and only buy what is used and consumed in the school year. They must do yearly inventory, agree to maintain safety and storage equipment, go to training offered by SERC and sign agreement that all chemicals have been inventoried (some have secret stashes).

The AdHoc group – chemical safe schools, which was made up of Health, DEM, Brown University, CCRI, URI and Department of Education, put the program in place, they had \$25,000 to spend. Can we buy schools “supplies,” like cabinets to lock the chemicals in? It was stated speak to Dwight Peavey on the purchasing of items. Victor Lepore stated that lots of schools are equipped with cabinets so check schools before spending the money to see what they already have.

Gina asked if RIEMA’s School Safety program can touch on chemically safe schools. Paul D’Abbreccio state that there was a school outreach safety conference, Firemen and Law Enforcement were there, but there weren’t any teachers. The teachers get credit for doing training as an incentive, but they still didn’t show.

2. Outdoor Chemical Storage

Gina Friedman said the first issue with this was the storm and the question of what is actually stored outside. On the Tier II plan, some facilities put what is stored outside, but not all. She was asked several years ago where there might be holes in chemical planning for hurricanes she stated that some progress was made as industry identifies where it stores chemicals within Tier 2 but maybe a survey could be generated to ascertain what we know about each outdoor storage area and/or large tank for example:

- a. Is it secured by fencing?**
- b. Is it in flood plain?**
- c. Could it be impacted by Narragansett Bay storm surge?**

- d. What wind conditions, or hurricane strength, is the tank structure and its supports rated for?**
- e. What about the associated piping, could this piping be rapidly disconnected prior to a storm?**
- f. Could the tank be emptied if the risk was severe?**
- g. Is there any co-located material at their facility or a nearby facility that could react?**
- h. Are there rail cars deemed under active shipping papers that are not accounted for stored near, next to, or at the facility**

From Tier II where does the information go? Which agency is in charge? We need to articulate in writing what was self-reported, send a questionnaire to the 683 facilities. We have a collection of information can we analyze what is out there. One of the LEPC responsibilities is to make sure Tier II facilities are in compliance.

There are jurisdictional issues with some outside tanks some fall under the Department of Transportation and some fall under the Fire Marshal's jurisdiction. Gina Friedman suggested that we put a list of outstanding questions together, and meet with some of the entities to address the issues.

3. Public Outreach

Gina Friedman stated that this was really Chief Dillon's idea; he wanted magnets with the shelter in place information on them to be distributed to families in Providence as well as the colleges and locals adjacent to the chemical facilities.

4. Tier II

It is difficult to coordinate with LEPC's on the deadlines for the data.

Question was asked if the data was in Cameo and the answer is yes, so why is there a gap. Department of Labor and Training (DLT) stated because the software is still in the 18th Century. The other issue is that Cameo and the Tier II systems are two different systems. All reporting is done electronically, but DLT cannot do compliance reporting, they do not have a tech department. Jamia stated that EMA can help with that and wants to know how we can streamline compliance. It was stated that a list is needed from the Secretary of State's office and DBR for business mapping. Jim Larisa said that when he took over the Tier II data was all done by mail. Now it is only accepted via email.

New Business

1. Grant Status

Jamia introduced David Eaton who oversees our grants division. David stated that the 2012 HMEP grant was granted an extension to December 30, 2013. The 2013 grant was awarded. Going forward, the Fire Marshal will be the Grant Administrator, RIEMA will set policy. Our contact at USDOT, Suzette, said she will be flexible, if we would like to change the spending, use it for training, equipment and Commodity Flow Study.

2. Commodity Flow Study (CFS)

Mike Lewis, Department of Transportation received a mandate to do a commodity flow study on rail, Economic Development Corporation was doing one so we decided to pool resources and work together. Paul D'Abbraccio discussed the working group, stated that EMA was

going to do their CFS first, we would like the \$63,000 remaining FY12 monies dedicated to the CFS, it is a good opportunity to accomplish this study. Rhode Island is such a small state that there is no reason for each LEPC to do their own CFS, instead work with other agencies and do rail, air and highway. In the binders you received there is a template along with other information on the CFS. It was determined by the group to proceed with the Commodity Flow Study.

3. Open Meeting Law

Jamia discussed this topic and pointed out that under tab "A" in your binders the law is there for your reference.

4. Executive Order

As of now the one put in place, May 2007, was before Jamia's arrival, right now there is a draft, and will be circulated for feedback. Bylaws are in non-compliance with the Attorney Generals and Secretary of State's offices. We will have to re-establish the bylaws.

5. Workshop

Paul D'Abbraccio asked if the end of October is enough time to get the information out to the audiences, which are the Tier II facilities. It was suggested maybe the first week of December.

6. Appointments

We are not going to list them by name, they will be listed by position; Department of Transportation will be added (in accordance with Federal Guidelines). Jamia will request a letter designating the appointee to the committee. The question was brought up as how to appoint new LEPC chairs and under Title 42, Subchapter 1, sub section (c) it states that each committee will appoint a chair person.

7. SERC Webpage

RIEMA would like to host the LEPC webpage's for free. RIEMA will have our web person start to migrate the data over. It was noted that DLT has the correct information while RI Department of Environmental Management still has incorrect information.

A couple of notices were given:

- On October 30th there will be a Hazard Communication Seminar held at the Crown Plaza. It is being put on by the Department of Labor and Training.**
- Jim Gaffey, USEPA, made it known that on Saturday, September 21; there will be an off load of Ammonia at Pawtucket Power. They are working with LEPC 1 and Pawtucket Fire. On October 19th the tanks will be removed.**
- Stefan Coutalakis let everyone know that ALOHA and CAMEO Chemicals updates are available online and also on Smartphones.**
- The tri-annual drill at the airport went well.**
- October 25th is the States HazMat drill.**

A motion was made by Gina Friedman and seconded by Joe Reppucci to adjourn at 11:27 am.

Next meeting is on Monday, October 7, 2013 at 10:00 am