



State of Connecticut Emergency Response Commission

Minutes of Regular Meeting May 20, 2021

The meeting was held entirely online, without any in-person component.

1. **Call to Order** 1:35 p.m. Jeff Morrisette asked for a moment of silence to recognize the life of New Haven Firefighter Ricardo Torres, Jr. who died in the line of service on May 12, 2021 and whose funeral was this morning.
2. The commission reviewed and unanimously **approved the March 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes** on a motion by Bob Araujo, seconded by Jeff Morrisette.
3. **Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant:** Current Grant Training activities updates:
 - a. **Naugatuck River Geographic Response Plan Training exercise:** currently planned for June 2021. A briefing and lessons learned presentation is planned for the July SERC meeting.
 - b. **Interstate exercise-RI:** planning for an exercise in Fall 2021 is underway. RI contacts have confirmed participation.
 - c. **Interstate exercise-MA:** planning for 2022 is underway.
 - d. **Transportation Incident Management Pocket Guide** is being published. Will be printed for distribution. Possible consideration of electronic version for the future if there is demand.
4. **US EPA Presentation: *Overview of US EPA New England Emergency Planning and Response Branch*** Daniel Burgo of the US EPA provided a comprehensive overview of the technical capacity and resources of the US EPA. He described the different types of emergency conditions to which his branch responds and the various ways that EPA supports states and towns when removals of chemicals and petroleum releases are needed. He described examples of incidents to which EPA has provided on-scene coordination and technical and financial support.
5. **Information sharing between Agencies, PFAS updates:**
 - a. Commission members shared information about their agencies.
 - b. Peter Zack noted personnel retirements have occurred in DEEP's Emergency Response Unit that prompted the posting of a Supervising Emergency Response Coordinator and the hiring process that is underway for Emergency Response Coordinators. An Assistant Division

Director position will also be posted soon for the Emergency Response Division. This position is important to provide continuity of operations support succession planning strategies for the Emergency Response Unit.

- c. Jeff Morrisette identified that the hiring process is underway to refill the Director of Training position.
- d. Diane Duva of CT DEEP noted that the PFAS firefighting foam concentrate Take Back Collection for state agencies and municipal fire departments is underway. This includes the collection of containers and will wrap up by late July. There will be a subsequent second stage for collection of foam from tanks and apparatus. Instructions were sent to fire departments in April. Jeff Morrisette noted that the state has identified an alternate fluorine free foam concentrate and procured a contract for supply. Municipalities can purchase from the state contract if they wish.

6. New Business

Chairman Goudreau recognized the service of William J. Hackett, State Emergency Management Director, to the State of Connecticut and this commission. He is retiring from state service June 1, 2021. A letter of gratitude and congratulations was read, and a certificate of appreciation was presented to Director Hackett.

7. Information and requests for future meeting topics

Paul Tasse of the US Department of Homeland Security agreed that he could check with others at his agency regarding the possibility of a Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) overview presentation at a future commission meeting, possibly in September or November. Chairman Goudreau confirmed that the July meeting will focus on a debriefing and lessons learned presentation recapping the Naugatuck River exercise planned for June.

- 8. **Public Comments** (opportunity for comments from any members of the public present). There were no public comments.
- 9. Chairman Goudreau **adjourned** the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

May 20, 2021 SERC Meeting Attendance

In attendance?	Member
Yes	Gerard P. Goudreau - Chairperson Facility member
Yes	Peter Zack , Director, Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Division Diane W. Duva , Director, Emergency Response Planning Office Lisa Lawson, Secretary , Materials Management and Compliance Assurance Bureau CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Yes	Jeffrey J. Morrisette , State Fire Administrator Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Yes	David Kallander, Ph.D. , Toxicologist Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program CT Department of Public Health
No	Stephen Clout Environmental Compliance, Bureau of Engineering and Construction CT Department of Transportation
Yes; State EOC activated for pandemic	William J. Hackett , State Director of Emergency Management Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
No	Ken Tucker, CONN-OSHA CT Department of Labor
Yes	Matthew LaFayette , Budget Analyst Budget and Financial Management Division CT Office of Policy and Management
No	William Abbott , State Fire Marshal Office of State Fire Marshal Division of Construction Services, CT Dept. of Administrative Services
Yes	Col. Charles Jaworski Connecticut Military Department
Yes	Robert J. Araujo Facility member
No	Chief John C. Littell, Tolland Fire Department Volunteer Fire Department member
Yes	Chief Edward N. Richards, Enfield Fire Department Municipal Fire Department member
Yes	Robert Ross , Public member
Yes	Carol Violette , Public member
No	Kyle Zimmer, Jr. , Public member

Also in attendance: Daniel Burgo, US EPA; Wayne Lalicon, US DOT PHMSA, Paul Tassey, US DHS CFATS; Rob Ross, Lisa Morrissey, Joey Cyr, Bob Kovach