



# State of Connecticut Emergency Response Commission

## Minutes of Regular Meeting January 16, 2025

The meeting was held **online**.

1. The meeting came to order at 1:32 p.m.
2. Introductions and welcomes; new member Bob Kovach introduced himself. He received an appointment from the Governor's Office to fill a public member vacancy on the commission. There are currently no vacancies on the commission. New member Lauri Volkert introduced herself as the new State Fire Marshal. She succeeds former State Fire Marshal, Bill Abbott, who retired.
3. The November 2024 Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Bob Araujo, seconded by Kyle Zimmer.
4. Meeting schedule confirmed for Calendar Year 2025
  - a. Third Thursdays of Odd-Numbered Months via remote online platform; Continue 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. timeslot.
  - b. The Secretary of State's State Agency Public Meeting Calendar (online) and the SERC webpage will be updated with the meeting dates for 2025.
  - c. The officers nominated during the November meeting agreed to continue in their roles. Given there were no other nominations and there was full support for the slate, Gerard Goudreau continues as Chairman, Robert Araujo as Vice-Chair, and Jeffrey Morrisette as Secretary.
5. State Fire Administrator Jeff Morrisette provided Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Training Activities updates. Regional Fire School hazmat training has been conducted in the past months and additional hazmat training will be offered at the CT Fire Academy February 21-23, 2025. The HMEP grant provided for the purchase of 2 electric vehicle fire blankets that will be used to train responders.
6. Bill Seward of the CT State Fire Academy provided an overview of this year's SERC Interagency Exercise. It will be held in the Spring/Early Summer in DEMHS Region 2. If possible, it will be coordinated with testing of Geographic Response Strategies for the Housatonic River, and USCG exercise objectives, and any other agency exercise goals.
7. Updates on LEPC status and plans
  - a. Updates LEPC status and plans: No new LEPC designations were identified.
  - b. State Emergency Response Commission Director Diane Duva noted that the [LEPC map](#) and the [LEPC Chairperson database](#) are dynamic.

- c. If updates are needed, please send an email with those revisions to the [DEEP.CTEPCRA@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.CTEPCRA@ct.gov) email address.
  - d. Len Wallace of EPA provided a brief refresher on LEPCs and their role in EPCRA. Diane Duva introduced an LEPC Plan online platform launching this year. She identified steps taken and planned to update LEPCs and LEPC plans, including the acquisition of an online platform for LEPCs to submit their plans electronically using a guided template that steps the LEPC through questions that create the plan. This is a module in the same platform used to manage EPCRA Tier II Report submittals in Connecticut, which means LEPC plans can link to facility plans and EPCRA Tier II report information to assist local officials in consolidating information about chemicals in their town/region. An example or demonstration of this system will be provided at the March or May 2025 meeting. Robert Araujo led discussion about strategies to understand which LEPCs may be interested in fulfilling their LEPC responsibilities through regional or other existing planning groups. Steve Huleatt, Bill Perkins, and Glenn B. of the Capitol Region Council of Governments/Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council described their experiences working as a region and agreed to try out uploading a plan on the online platform when available.
8. Information sharing between Agencies and partners. Highlights included: sharing by commission members and partners. Len Wallace highlighted some EPCRA compliance assurance initiatives related to ammonia storage. Karen Way of EPA noted that she is arranging for testing of Geographic Response Strategies for the Housatonic River at 3 Connecticut locations in 2025. Carlyn McGowan of EPA introduced herself as the state coordinator for emergency response actions for Connecticut, for those not in attendance last meeting. The CISA ChemLock program training that is available to facilities at their site or via online training was flagged along with other training and resources in the Meeting Guide [slides]. Future meetings [March, May] will focus on updating LEPC information and plans, as well as planning for the 2025 SERC Exercise.
9. Public Comments: There were no public comments.
10. Adjournment 3:00 p.m. on a motion by Bob Araujo, seconded by Kyle Zimmer.

Attendance	Commission Members
N	<b>Gerard P. Goudreau</b> – Chairperson, Facility member
y	<b>Diane W. Duva</b> , Director, Planning Office, Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Div., CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection [ <i><b>also Lori Saliby, Gary Trombly, Drew Kukucka</b></i> ]
y	<b>Jeffrey Morrisette</b> , State Fire Administrator CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
y	<b>David Kallander</b> , Ph.D. , Toxicologist; Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program/Preparedness CT Department of Public Health
y	<b>Jason Coite</b> Environmental Compliance, Bureau of Engineering and Construction, CT Department of Transportation [ <i><b>also Andrew Morrill, Diana Palmer, Steven Jamele</b></i> ]
n	<b>William Turner</b> , Director, Emergency Management, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
n	<b>Jeff Saltus</b> , CONN-OSHA CT Department of Labor
n	<b>Matthew LaFayette</b> , Budget Analyst, Budget and Financial Management Division CT Office of Policy and Management
y	<b>Lauri Volkert</b> , State Fire Marshal, Office of State Fire Marshal, Division of Construction Services CT Department of Administrative Services
y	<b>LTC Benjamin Neumon</b> , Connecticut Military Department
y	<b>Chief John C. Littell</b> , Tolland Fire Department, Volunteer Fire Department member

Y	<b>Chief Edward N. Richards</b> , Enfield Fire Department, Municipal Fire Department member
Y	<b>Robert J. Araujo</b> , Facility member
Y	<b>Robert Kovach</b> , Public member
n	<b>Lisa Morrissey</b> , Facility member
Y	<b>Robert Ross</b> , Public member
n	<b>Anthony Salvatore</b> , Town Manager, Cromwell, Public member
Y	<b>Kyle Zimmer, Jr.</b> , Public member

**Also present:**

**Len Wallace, Karen Way, Carlyn McGowan, US EPA; Bill Seward, CT Fire Academy; Francis Patno, DHS/CISA; Steve Huleatt, Bill Perkins, Glenn B, CREPC/CRCOG; Michael Paradis, DEMHS**