



State of Connecticut Emergency Response Commission

Minutes of Regular Meeting March 20, 2025

The meeting was held **online**.

1. The meeting came to order at 13:33.
2. Introductions and welcomes; new member Ryan Santos was introduced and provided a summary of his professional background. He will be transitioning into the CT DEEP SERC administrative role, as Diane W. Duva transitions out of this role. Many words of gratitude were shared for Diane's many wonderful contributions to the SERC community over the years. Diane will continue to participate in the next couple of bimonthly SERC meetings as Ryan transitions into this role.
3. The January 2025 Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Bob Araujo, seconded by Jeffrey Morrisette.
4. Introductions by all participants present at the meeting.
5. Jeffrey Morrisette reported that training is ongoing. Requests are being prepared for reimbursement. Planning in progress for that training event. Commissioner Gerard Goudreau stated that we are unsure of what the future Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant amount will be, as US DOT has postponed the allocation for the HMEP grant to all states. Also, the HMEP application process has been postponed, pending federal review, though US DOT has indicated that the application will be finalized and the allocations provided at some point for the first year of the new 3-year grant cycle. US DOT indicated that a grant amount similar as last year's grant will likely be awarded and that we are okay to pay invoices for this year's training under the existing grant.
6. Bill Seward of the CT State Fire Academy provided an overview of progress related to this year's SERC Interagency Exercise. The current plan is for this training to be held in late August/early September in DEMHS Region 2, rather than the Spring as initially considered. Decontamination training will be one of the major goals for the training event. Stephen Foley noted there will be a refresher training on Incident Command System (ICS) forms that will be used in the exercise. A Geographic Response Strategy can be coordinated, if possible.
7. Diane Duva recapped previous trainings/exercises covering all five Regions. She mentioned that Danbury volunteered to host the 2026 training exercise in Region 5. Bill Perkins of the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council (CREPC) mentioned that Amtrak will be doing an exercise at

Camp Hartell from September 26-27th. More than one exercise a year is acceptable and exercises can be combined.

8. Stephen Foley alerted all participants of the three-day race event in Limerock at the end of June. Pointed out that Region 5 will have their resources tied up to support this three-day event to respond to emergency events related to fuel, etc.
9. Diane Duve provided a brief overview of EPCRA Tier II reporting requirements and presented the statistics for reporting year 2024 EPCRA Tier II Chemical Inventory Reports submitted by over 2000 Connecticut facilities.
10. Discussion on identifying strategies to encourage towns and LEPCs to cooperate with generating the required plans for emergency response in their towns/Regions. Representatives from the Hazconnect platform used by CT DEEP/SERC for managing EPCRA Tier II reports, preparedness planning, and incident reporting and notifications provided a demonstration of the capabilities of the LEPC module. The platform can pull in EPCRA/Tier II information to auto-populate facility information as part of preparing an emergency response plan for facilities/towns/LEPCs. During, and following, the presentation questions were asked by Robert Araujo, Bob Kovach, and Bill Perkins. Discussions/coordination are planned for the May SERC meeting and rollout, in coordination with DEMHS to LEPCs and emergency management directors.
11. Information sharing, discussion of current issues, and proposals for future meeting topics. Fran Patno wrote in the chat that CISA is still providing services to facilities with hazardous chemicals, including free onsite security assessments. Diane Duva also reported, on behalf of Len Wallace, that EPA has focused compliance assistance and enforcement in Connecticut on ammonia and propane.
12. The next SERC meeting will be held, virtually, on May 15, 2025.
13. Adjournment 14:47 on a motion by Kyle Zimmer; seconded by Bob Kovach.

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

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

Also present:

Carlyn McGowan, US EPA; **Bill Seward**, **Stephen Foley** CT Fire Academy; **Francis Patno**, DHS/CISA; **Bill Perkins** +1 CREPC/CRCOG; **Michael Paradis**, DEMHS; **Shilpa Mohan** and **Siobhan Bruno**, Hazconnect representatives