



Local Emergency Planning Committee  
C/O KCOEM  
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# Kane County Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting Minutes November 21, 2023

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. in the Kane County Multi-purpose building training room by Chairman Jon Mensching.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Members present – *(Names taken directly from the sign-in sheet):*

Bob Balsamo – South Elgin EMA, Mark Chmura – St. Charles EMA,  
Deborah Dortmund – KCOEM & KCLEPC recording secretary, treasurer & grant coordinator,  
Cadence Griffiths – Kane County Health Department Emergency Response Coordinator,  
Leandro Guardado – Smithfield Foods, James Ingallino – Tiger Drylac USA. Inc.,  
Kristine Lynn – OSHA Compliance Specialist, Kate-Leigh McClone – America Chemical Products Inc.,  
Jon Mensching – KCOEM / LEPC Chairman, Patricia Mierisch – Concerned Citizen,  
Sebastian Mroczkowski – Producers Chemical Co., Mike Oine – Elgin Fire Department, and Deb  
Wilmont – Rush Copley Medical Center.

## **Guests:**

Kyle Griffin – Kane County Health Department Emergency Response person  
Roy Miller – Messer LLC Plant, Mark Payton – Kaneland 302, David Fisher West Aurora #129,  
Joe Gorski – North Aurora PD, Taylor Petersen – Aurora Fire Dept., Phil Morris – Kane County  
ROE., Brian Tobin - Central 301, Pat Waldau – U-46 and Sgt. Humm - KCSO.

**WELCOME:** Everyone was welcomed. A Computer displayed flag was used for the Pledge of Allegiance. Jon officially opened the meeting and asked the group to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **INTRODUCTIONS:**

As we had several guests in the room from the various school districts, Jon asked that we go around the room with introductions. The new Director of OEM, Scott Buziecki, introduced himself gave the group a little of his background information.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

We received the correspondence that was sent to all the members from the State Senator regarding the proposed senate resolution no. 142. (Attachment #1)(Item discussed at last meeting also).

Jon stated the letter that brought the school districts to us today was emailed out and is also available at the sign in table. The letter is in reference to senate resolution 142 and this comes to us after multiple attempts of Springfield trying to pass a law that would mandate planning per school for hazardous materials incidents with evacuation routes. It continues to come back with various changes to the wording. The amount of planning resources it would take to create a hazmat plan for each individual school identifying evacuation routes is something that is way beyond any of our resources to be able to accomplish. What we have seen in some of the meetings with ROE is that the schools have been approached by parents stating that – for example – there is a pipeline running close by and what happens if this becomes an issue. This meeting here today and inviting the school districts to be a member at the table and to put them in touch with what planning is being done to enable them to take advantage of that to allow them to be better prepared in their emergency plans.

Jon stated he has a presentation he put together for later.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

The meeting minutes were emailed out shortly after the meeting. Did anyone have any questions, changes, suggestions or comments? Nothing mentioned. Jon stated he would entertain a motion to accept the meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the May Meeting Minutes: Mark Chmura

Second: Mike Oine

Voice vote: Motion approved.

## **LEPC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Jon mentioned that as we have the group from the school districts here is was a good time to give everyone some background information on the LEPC; how it was started, what the LEPC is, what is our purpose and why are we here; a general overview.

### **(Jon's presentation)**

Jon's stated the history goes back to an incident in Bhopal India in 1984 where the community had no idea the chemical was there, there was no planning, the facility did not make contact to let people know there was a problem, and depending on the reports you read a large number of people were killed by the release of this chemical. A year later the same company had a similar incident in August of 1985 in Institute, West Virginia. This brought the problem to our doorstep.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), authorized by Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA Title III), was passed in 1986 in response to concerns regarding the environmental and safety hazards posed by the storage and handling of toxic chemicals. These concerns were triggered by the 1984 disaster in Bhopal, India, caused by an accidental release of methylisocyanate. <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/what-epcra>

Previously there were not any laws on the books. OSHA did not really come around until after that. EPCRA and SARA Title III stated that each state needed to have an emergency response commission. For the state of Illinois, it was delegated to IEMA. The SERC – State Emergency Response Commission - has divided up the state into

Emergency Planning districts to create the LEPC's. Illinois chose to establish districts based upon the counties and the area of Chicago and Cook County. This is an unfunded mandate and it is out of the goodness of our employers' hearts that we are here today.

The LEPC's are made up of 12 different stake holders including elected officials, environmental groups, law enforcement, hospitals, emergency management, transportation, firefighting, media, first aid/ emergency medical services, community groups, public health, and regulated facility representatives. We are one of the few groups that is made up of the people that are regulated by the law that they are charged to follow. Giving the regulated facilities a seat at the table and letting them be a part of the group that is charged to oversee the law is really important. It helps to build a partnership between us and the facilities so as we are writing the plan, the facilities are giving us the correct information as to what we should be doing with the chemicals that have at their location.

Jon then gave a brief overview of EPCRA and what it entails. It comes under US-EPA and has 4 major provisions. Emergency planning, emergency release notification, chemical storage reporting, and toxic chemical inventory. These provisions came about as a direct result of the problems with Bhopal India and West Virginia. As we look at emergency planning, we are to look at and identify transportation routes and facilities that have extremely hazardous substances. We look at describing emergency response procedures, designate a community coordinator and each facility must have an emergency coordinator and outline emergency notification.

Jon mentioned that we brought the hazmat teams to the planning table by having them on the LEPC. We have three in Kane County – MABAS division 2 in the north, MABAS division 13 in the south and the KCSO EOD (explosive ordinance disposal) team dealing with class 1 hazardous materials for the entire county and surrounding regions.

When we look at chemical storage reporting, EHS (Extremely Hazardous Substances) are chemicals listed on the list of lists. Jon mentioned chlorine and its threshold planning quantity. Non EHS chemicals are reported at 10,000 lbs. or greater for commercial as stations. Super gas stations like truck stops may still have to report based upon the amount of fuel on hand.

The Kane County LEPC has quarterly meetings with all of the members being volunteer representatives from the company or agency and we receive zero tax dollars. We have a Partnership Program that asks the reporting companies to make a donation to support us and the program. The money raised is split; we take 50% and the other 50% is split three ways between the three hazmat teams in the county. That way we feel the companies can see that their contribution is going towards the administrative side as well as also going back to the community to help the teams buy equipment.

The LEPC provides information to the public on the plan and the facilities. Besides the facility list and the contact information, the plan itself does not have any secretive information. It is a lot of common sense operation, so an amended plan is available on the website. We answer all the FOIA's from the public as to what chemicals are available at a specific address in the neighborhood – if the site is a filing facility.

Every year we adopt the plan and every two years we go through the plan and make adjustments and that corresponds with the OEM EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) that goes to IEMA for review. The Hazmat plan is part of the EOP.

Jon mention the GIS project that is going to be upcoming where we will map all of our facilities so we can see what is in the area. The planning software – CAMEO (free software) does worst case plume modeling.

Additionally we will need to review what is going through the county via the railroads and pipelines. Rail traffic is not going down.  
(Brief question on pipeline right-of-way).

Jon stated that this was just a quick informational overview about the LEPC and the Senate resolution. He mentioned that he may reach out to the State Senator and let her know we had a meeting and several of the school districts attended and they were brought up to speed.

It was asked that Jon share the presentation with the schools at the meetings he attends. Jon stated that he could turn the presentation into a PDF and it could be sent to all the members. (Attachment #2)

#### **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILL REPORT:**

The quarterly spill report is on the back of the agenda.

Jon went over a quick review of the spills listed. The report will be on file. (Attachment #3)

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Financial:** Jon stated that he has sent the Partnership letters out to the facilities. W.R.Meadows is the first participant to return their donation to the LEPC. Jon mentioned that he examined the list a little more closely and by doing that, the numbers of undeliverable letters returned has decreased.

Jon though that after the first of the year the finance committee would meet, once we have a better idea of what the donations are for the upcoming year.

Additionally Jon hoped to be able the get in on the HMEP grant on its next round. DOT deals with transportation therefor we can only use the grant funds for transportation relate issues. If we are doing planning or exercises for transportation, we can use HMEP funds. We hope to use the HMEP grant funds to aid our goal of the commodity flow study. Utilizing the HMEP grant funds opens us up to working with surrounding counties as one of the requirements.

Jon mentioned that he found where he started working on the emergency response survey of the police and fire departments. They need to be updated as part of the plan review.

#### **Planning:**

We did get a response back on the request to review the plan and look at the update. Mike had commented that we needed to update the surveys, the RR data and the commodity flow study.

Jon stated that we needed to start surveying the facilities and the public response agencies to update our response capabilities as part of the plan. He mentioned it could

be done via a simple letter or a Google questionnaire. He thought that the simple electronic survey may be the best as they (Police / Fire/ facilities) only have to open their email and answer the questions. It has been several years since we sent out the surveys to all the departments and the facilities regarding their hazmat capabilities. Jon stated that we would reach out to the railroads to update the carload information. Jon asked that if you look at the cleanup contractor list and you have worked with a company that is no longer doing clean up but still on the list or you have a new suggestion to add to the contractor list, please send it to us.

Additionally the phone numbers need to be reviewed and checked. Mark suggested we look at the Federal Agency phone numbers are in the back of the plan.

Jon stated that we may need to update the information on the questionnaire as there may be new preparedness measures that facilities need to take, with new rules. What are the different rules out there and the different rules the facilities need to follow? The RMP rule (Risk Management Program) was briefly mentioned.

The RMP rule requires facilities that use extremely hazardous substances to develop a Risk Management Plan which: identifies the potential effects of a chemical accident, identifies steps the facility is taking to prevent an accident, and. spells out emergency response procedures should an accident occur. (per the US EPA)

Jon mentioned that we will vote on the plan adoption in February for the 2024 year.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Jon did not have anything to report on from the IEMA training summit. He did not make the LEPC break out session as he was in another session.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No news.

Deborah asked that if the schools district officers wanted to remain on the LEPC mailing list, please be sure that she has your email and contact information to add to the roster.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Mark mentioned that with the Senate resolution for the school districts, there is a push at the State level to enact a law stating that each school district shall name an emergency coordinator and that all schools will participate in a mutual aid plan that will be created by the school district. If you have one already in place, that's awesome but if not be aware that this is something that is being looked into. There is a lot of opposition to it because it would be more burdensome to the school districts.

Jon mentioned that he has had discussions with Dave Christensen, McHenry County's EMA coordinator, regarding the various versions of this resolution that have come across his desk. (Brief discussion)

There are approximately 220 school buildings in Kane County that are just the public schools and then another approximately 70 private schools and then an unknown amount of unrecognized schools. This issues could become something very big. Jon stated that would take years if there needed to be a plan per building.

It was asked PFAS's were on our radar. Jon mentioned that we were aware of some of the fire department foams when it became an issue. It was commented that on the environmental side, they were going to need to report on all PFAS chemicals they have on site and going back 10

years as they are now considering them 'forever chemicals'. If they – the facility – had a fire and they had the PFAS chemicals dispersed into the waterways they need to file a TRI report for it. Jon stated that he knew it was an issue on the fire side especially when using the foam to fight a fire. Of course they told the fire departments there were no funds to dispose of the PFAS foam. If it were used on a fire, that would be on the spiller to clean up the used foam if it was used on their fire.

Jon mentioned that section 313 does not fall on the LEPC.

If anyone is looking for the NIMS 300 class, we will be having one in December and then the following 400 class will probably be in January 2024.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** The next meeting is **Tuesday February 20th at 1:00 PM** in this same location; the Kane County Multi-purpose building training room. The 2024 proposed meeting dates are attached. (Attachment #4). Jon mentioned that we will be talking about the budget, the plan, Partnership Program and elections. Jon said if you are a member, that is a meeting to come to so you can be sure you have your vote counted.

Motion to Adjourn: Bob Balsamo

Second: Deborah Wilmont

Voice vote: Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned approximately at 2:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Dortmund

KCOEM Deputy Director for Administration  
LEPC Recording Secretary & treasurer