

State Emergency Response Commission Meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 2022
New Jersey Forensic Science Technology Center
1200 Negron Drive
Hamilton, NJ 08691

Minutes

The State Emergency Response Commission was called to order on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 10:00 AM EDT, at the New Jersey Forensic Science Technology Center 1200 Negron Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08691. The meeting was held in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws Act of 1975. Notice of the meeting was sent to news media outlets via a press release on March 27, 2022 and posted on the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJ OEM) and NJSERC Websites (<https://nj.gov/njoem/serc/index.shtml>).

SERC Members in Attendance: DR: Designated Representative ALT DR: Alternate DR

Present in the room:

- Brian Beam, DR for Joseph L. Fiordaliso, President, NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJ BPU);
- Robert Burd, DR for Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Department of Transportation (NJ DOT);
- Bruce Tynan, DR for Department of Community Affairs Commissioner, Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver (NJDC/DFS);
- Robert VanFossen, DR for Commissioner Shawn LaTourette, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) SERC Co-Chairperson;
- LTC Scott Poulton, NJ OEM, DR for Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, State Director of Emergency Management and Superintendent, New Jersey State Police (NJSP), SERC Co-Chairperson;
- Colonel Walter R. Gill, ALT DR for The Adjutant General Colonel Lisa J. Hou, NJ Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (DMAVA);
- Karen Fox, ALT DR for Department of Health (NJDOH) Commissioner Judith M. Persichilli;
- Kai Marshal-Otto, Counsel to the Acting Attorney General, DR for Acting Attorney General Mathew J. Platkin, Office of the Attorney General (OAG); and
- Eric Tysarczyk, DR for Laurie Doran, Director, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP)

Participating remotely via phone:

- N/A

SERC Member Roll Call Confirms Quorum (As listed above)

Quorum confirmed by Robert VanFossen.

Other Attendees:

- Mitzi Kaiura, NJDEP
- Jim Bruncati, NJBPU
- Charles Ambio, NJOHSP
- Charles Murtaugh, Gloucester Co. OEM
- NJOEM – Dan Cuning; Sean Kielty; Bill Craney; Monica Nuhfer; Minh Ngo; John Walsh; Johnathan Lopuski; Adam Tighe; Lance Visone; Christopher Warwick; Lynn Amari; Cindy Flagg
- John Dean, CISA DHS
- Wayne Lalicon, US DOT/PHMSA

The meeting commenced at 10:07 AM EDT.

Consideration of Minutes of December 4, 2021

Consideration of minutes from the last meeting were provided to SERC on April 14, 2022 – all relevant parties reviewed the minutes.

Bob Van Fossen inquired as to whether any changes or questions regarding these notes.

Hearing none, Director Van Fossen made a motion to approve minutes.

Kai Marshall-Otto seconded. Unanimous approval. Minutes are approved.

Co-Chair Reports:

Bob Van Fossen, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Emergency Management (EM) Program indicated that the SERC has been busy for the last 6 months from the chairs and team's support. Continuing to do outreach to local, county and private stakeholders, presenting at Emergency Management Conference in May, meeting with Gloucester County regarding redistricting. Charles Murtaugh is here from Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management (GC OEM) in support of this effort as a lot of progress has been made in Gloucester County.

EPCRA Surveys within the state are reported to DEP as an arm of the SERC by March 1st of every year (annually). To date, 1673 completed EPCRA Surveys received by the DEP, work with LEPCs within the state to follow up with facilities who have not provided a survey. Working through that process now.

There were no initial questions for Bob Van Fossen.

LTC Poulton concurred with Director Van Fossen in terms of outreach authorized by the SERC Board. Granted ability for continuing to brief out on the SERC, especially given Governor Murphy's new Executive Order (EO) #284 giving SERC authority to redistrict the State of New Jersey as it sees fit. Presentation on redistricting to follow. It is important for members of the SERC to see and have input on the redistricting efforts and continuing to monitor the progress of planning and Training Working Group (TWG). Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and partners have been able to do the lion's share of the SERC's work on this subject. The 2 co-chairs

attended the National Conference Virtual seminar on EPCRA. Additionally, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a new handbook. That handbook is a guide for Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and Tribal Emergency Planning Committees (TEPCs), providing clear guidelines for expectations, and will help NJ to coordinate with LEPCs.

There were no initial questions for LTC Poulton.

Director Van Fossen indicated Planning & Training have done a great job on both work groups and will be briefed under Old Business.

Old Business:

1. Report from Planning Working Group - Lieutenant William Craney, Assistant Bureau Chief, Emergency Response Bureau, NJSP, see attached report entitled "SERC PWG Testimony for April 2022 Meeting".
2. Report from Sergeant First Class Daniel Cunning, Assistant Unit Head, Training and Exercise Unit, NJSP, see attached report entitled "SERC TWG Testimony for April 2022 Meeting".
3. Litigation Update – No Litigation Update

Closed Session:

No Closed Session Required

Return to Open Session:

As there was no closed session, no return to open session is necessary.

New Business:

1. LTC Poulton delivered the SERC/EPCRA brief at the meeting.
2. LTC Poulton presented plan for bringing on planners to work with the LEPCs with regards to establishing off-site ERPs.
3. SERC co-chairs will finalize the process regarding OPRA requests.
4. SERC co-chairs tasked the Planning Working Group with the following:
 - a. Continue working with IT contractor, NJDEP, and NJDOH to redesign NJ's EPCRA database.
 - b. Continue working with existing planning districts to assess future redistricting.
 - c. Continue to update the SERC website.
5. SERC co-chairs tasked the Training Working Group with the following:

- a. Develop a plan for regional workshops which can be used as a model for future training.
- b. Identify grant funding for proposed regional workshops.
- c. Deliver 3 regional exercises in calendar year 2023.

Items Scheduled for Voting and Vote:

1. Continued outreach by SERC co-chairs
2. Resolution to redistrict Gloucester County

Vote:

Before voting, any new business to add to new business. Two (2) items for SERC voting.

1. Continued outreach, motion to recognize to approve further outreach – motion made by Eric Tysarczyk, second by Colonel Gill, outreach authorization unanimous. None-opposed, approval of authorized continued outreach, outreach will continue going forward – no additional future voting required.
2. Gloucester County redistricting with Gloucester County being the LEPC. All in favor - unanimous, no opposition – SERC members hereby approve Gloucester County as an emergency planning district moving forward.

Public Comment:

Any public comment? No public comment. Hearing none. No public comments or questions.

Next Meeting

The next SERC meeting is scheduled Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 10 AM EST, at New Jersey Forensic Technology Center, 1200 Negron Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08691

Adjournment

Colonel Gill motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Karen Fox seconded – motion carried, meeting is adjourned at 11:20 hrs. EDT exactly. Director Van Fossen and LTC Poulton thanked everyone for their participation.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Kielty
Acting Recording Secretary