

SERC Meeting Minutes 1/22/20

In attendance:

Samantha Phillips (MEMA Director/SERC Chair); Bud McDonough (Public Rep); Ryan McGovern (Boston Fire); Janice Parsons (Boston Fire); Jeffrey Durham (Taunton Fire) Aaron Gilbert (Taunton Fire) Sara Zalieckas (MEMA); Andrew Goldberg (AGO); Ally Sleiman (Quincy LEPC/EMA); Dawn Brantley (MEMA); James Devlin (MSP); Ann McCarthy (MEMA); Carrie Clifton (MEMA); Lorri Gifford (MEMA); Brian Maloney (Quincy Intern); Timothy Peterson (Quincy Intern); Alexa Leduc (Quincy Intern); Bob Barry (MEMA); Kristen Divris (DEP); Heather Shampine (MEMA); Andrew Trice (MEMA); Mark Lenz (Aristatek); Andrew Beaulice (Env. Police); Scott Cluets (EMS); Katy Bellemare (MEMA); Marc Nascarella (DPH); James Mannion (MEMA); Tim Morin (DOT); Paul Betti (MFA/DFS); Martha Mittelstaedt (MCTA).

State Audit Report

SERC Chair discussed the SERC Audit/findings: 1) MEMA did not establish emergency planning committees for all cities and towns with businesses storing hazardous chemicals reporting under EPCRA; 2) MEMA could not demonstrate it received and reviewed each LEPC/RECP emergency response plan.

MEMA's response: MEMA will coordinate with local communities and leverage Tier II reports to identify those communities that should be part of an EPC and provide support and guidance in the formation of an LEPC or REPC. MEMA brought EPCRA planning into its CEMP process. Emergency response plans at the local level were to be included in a communities overall emergency management plan. MEMA will retain documentation of the plan review process to demonstrate that it is meeting this obligation. SERC Audit report will be circulated when made public.

Tier II Reporting

Tier II reporting season is now (January 1 – March 1). Sent notice in early January to facilities regarding their Tier II reporting. Tier II reports for 2019 must be filed by March 1, 2020. The SERC discussed what information was shared with those required to file Tier II reports. MEMA circulated a letter at the beginning of the reporting season and has posted the following link to its website:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/tier-ii-reporting-year-2019-massachusetts-state-emergency-response-commission-reporting/download>.

IDSI is the platform for collecting the data and a suggestion was made to look at data reconciliation as there are reports that go back to 2011.

GIS Mapping

Desiree Kocis, MEMA GIS coordination has accurately mapped Tier II facilities in Massachusetts and continues to streamline.

HMEP Grant

Lorri Gifford informed the group that the 2020 HMEP contracts are out to the EPCs with a June 30, 2020 end date. The 2nd year funding (2021) just opened up and the funding levels remain the same.

MA Firefighting HMEP Training

Paul Betti provided an update on training using the HMEP funds. So far this quarter they have had 9 courses and approximately 150 students. The HMEP grant funds have been really important to our training program as they help ensure the District HazMat Teams sustain and enhance their training needs. We did request and received approval to switch some funds from one course to another but overall things are going as planned. Last year 1,000, district HazMat team members were trained and expect to train at least that this year, maybe more.

Regional Reports

Region I reported that they are waiting on certification for Cambridge. Asked about the certification approval having to come to Framingham to present and then get voted on. SERC Chair said the process for locals regionals will be the same for now and any changes can be brought to the full Commission. When changes are adopted, they will be clearly articulated to EPCs.

Region II report that they have been attending EPC meetings in Carver, Barnstable County, Needham, and Norfolk. Waiting on Needham application for certification.

Region III/IV reported that they have been attending EPC meetings throughout their communities. Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties have REPCs. Hampden has more LEPCs and Worcester has some REPCs and LEPCs. Working on recertification for Hampshire and Franklin communities in 2020 with Berkshire recertification in 2021.

SERC Reorganization

SERC Chair discussed the proposed SERC reorganization as a way to better support obligations under EPCRA and make the SERC more actionable. There will be 4 working groups going forward.

Administrative Working Group

- Maintain the SERC membership, rosters, recruit new members, and determine/make recommendations for voting and non-voting members.
- Ensure the SERC is operating in accordance with EPCRA, ensure compliance with appropriate state laws, policies and executive orders, make recommendations as needed, and lead new legislative and policy initiatives as appropriate.
- Provide administrative support to the SERC such as public notices of meetings, agendas, and meeting minutes.
- Ensure sub groups are supported and meeting their objectives.

Planning Working Group

- Assist with formation and maintenance of planning districts, coordinate with local and regional emergency planning councils (LEPC and REPC) to ensure they are meeting EPCRA and SERC requirements, provide planning support and guidance
- Coordinate with LEPC, REPC, and MEMA Regional offices on the approval and adoption of plans.

Planning is working on a centralized location for the list of EPCs/LEPCs and will work on updating the latest list (5/19). The application process will continue through the regional office. Planning will

continue to reach out to the regions for clear understanding of the application process, will continue to track conversations and will look to recruit folks in the planning process.

Grants Working Group

- Provide clear, consistent, and actionable grant guidance to eligible applicants, promote grant funding opportunities to ensure LEPC, REPC, and state applicants are leveraging available funding opportunities.
- Develop and maintain a tool for evaluating grant applications, evaluate and make recommendations on grant applications.
- Explore opportunities for new funding, compile best practices for current and future funding.

Tier II Working Group

- Responsible for state's administration of Tier II reporting to include communications with facilities, state agencies, and municipalities, coordinate and manage Tier II reporting system (IDSI), serve as point of contact for Tier II information sharing.
- Compile data and metrics to inform Tier II submission compliance.
- Coordinate with MEMA's GIS unit to ensure Tier II facilities are integrated into mapping applications.

It was suggested that an education piece be incorporated into these working groups.

Action Items and Topics for Future Meetings

Action Items:

- SERC members should select a Working Group to join and report their interest to Katy Bellemare (katy.bellemare@mass.gov).

Future Topics:

- Tier II Reporting System (IDSI) Demo

Next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2020. Working Groups meetings will take place from 10:00 - 11:00AM and the full SERC meeting will be 11:00AM - 12:00PM.