

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Louisiana Emergency Response Commission (LERC)**

**Meeting Title** Louisiana Emergency Response Commission Meeting  
**Date of Meeting** March 8, 2017  
**Where** Louisiana State Police Headquarters  
7919 Independence Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
**Start Time** 10:00 a.m.

1. Lt. Col. David Staton called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
2. Tara Guidry, LSP/Right-to-Know Unit, called roll as follows:

Lt. Col. David Staton, Department of Public Safety, PRESENT  
Dr. Chuck Brown, Department of Environmental Quality, NOT PRESENT  
Bryan Riche, Designee for Department of Environmental Quality, PRESENT  
Dr. Brent Robbins, Designee for Department of Agriculture and Forestry, PRESENT  
William Rachal, Designee for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, NOT PRESENT  
Command Technician (CT) Taylor Moss, Department of Public Safety, PRESENT  
James "Jim" Polk, Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association, PRESENT  
Cecil "Keith" Bennett, Carroll L. Herring Fire and Emergency Training Institute, PRESENT  
Marty Chabert, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office, NOT PRESENT  
Edward Flynn, Louisiana Chemical Association, NOT PRESENT  
Chief Bobby Black, PRESENT  
Joel "Joey" Dugas, Dow Chemical, NOT PRESENT  
Jennifer Reynolds, Webster Parish Office of Homeland Security, PRESENT  
Travis Perrilloux, St. John the Baptist Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness, PRESENT  
Chief Guy Bonin, Iberia Parish Fire District, PRESENT  
Obed "Obie" Cambre, Jr., ExxonMobil, PRESENT  
Chris Guilbeaux, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, NOT PRESENT  
Senator Mike Walsworth, PRESENT  
Senator Mack "Bodi" White, NOT PRESENT

The records reflect that the following visitors were present:  
Jan Herrington, Positive Results Inc.

The records also reflect that the following LSP/Emergency Services Unit personnel were present:  
Gene Dunegan  
Tara Guidry  
Alisa Monroe  
Paul Schexnayder, Louisiana State Police Legal Counsel

3. Lt. Col. Staton asked members to review their contact information and to advise of any changes.

4. Lt. Col. Staton asked the commission to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2016 LERC meeting. A **MOTION** was made by Senator Mike Walsworth to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

## 5. Committee Reports:

Long Range Planning: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Chief Bobby Black for a report from the Long Range Planning Committee. Chief Black and Mr. Gene Dunegan of the Right-to-Know Unit will conduct a seminar presentation entitled “Knowing Your Resources” at the Louisiana Fire Chief’s Association annual conference on March 21<sup>st</sup> in Metairie. The focus will be on information available to the Fire Service through the LERC and the Right-to-Know Unit of the Louisiana State Police.

Emergency Plans Review: There was no report submitted by the Emergency Plans Review Committee.

Training and Resources: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Mr. Keith Bennett for the report from the Training and Resources Committee. Mr. Bennett did not have a report for the first quarter of 2017, since the quarter is ongoing. Mr. Bennett spoke about the annual report, which showed the continued growth of training programs. He stated that just a few years ago, the Fire and Emergency Training Institute and State Police trained about 2000 students annually. Now, about 2700 students are trained in the program’s hazmat classes.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Service: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Mr. Jim Polk, who did not submit a report but discussed making presentations to LEPCs on what LERC is and how LERC can help them. Mr. Polk gave a presentation to the St. Charles Parish LEPC recently which went well, and added that with the permission of the LERC, he wanted to email LEPC chairs to encourage them in their duties and to provide links to the PowerPoint file of the presentation and to the LEPC Handbook. Mr. Polk also went on a public-access TV program to discuss emergency planning and the LERC. He also reminded the committee about the LEPA Annual Conference to be held from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Golden Nugget in Lake Charles, LA. A **MOTION** was made by Chief Bobby Black for Mr. Polk to proceed with his proposal to email the LEPC chairs. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

Public Information – Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Command Technician Taylor Moss, who did not submit a report but had an item for discussion. CT Moss recently read an article about an 18-wheeler carrying 9500 gallons of liquefied petroleum gas that overturned on the interstate in Seattle. Such incidents are rare in that area, and when the interstate was shut down for nine hours, local and state officials came unglued. They didn’t understand that the tractor and trailer couldn’t be uprighted immediately. CT Moss said we often lose sight of how well in Louisiana industry, law enforcement, and local and parish governments work together during hazmat incidents and day-to-day operations. The article referenced the I-10 closure several years ago in Baton Rouge after an accident involving an 18-wheeler carrying isobutene closed the highway for over 24 hours so that the extremely flammable chemical could be removed in a safe manner. During that event, everyone involved understood that public safety came first in that situation.

Lt. Col. Staton added that a big part is a working knowledge from people working in industry in Louisiana, and another part is the level of trust with local and elected officials and the public that the emergency response community has built up over the years. When highways are closed or people have to evacuate, people complain about the inconvenience, but they trust that it is being done in their best interest.

Emergency Notification – There was no report submitted by the Emergency Notification Committee.

## 6. Old Business

The first item of old business concerned a Bakken Crude Oil update. Mr. Dunegan stated that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the US Department of Transportation is considering establishing vapor pressure limits on unrefined petroleum based products, such as Bakken Crude and strengthening the regulations regarding containers for shipping. The agency will be taking comments until the end of the month.

The second item of old business concerned State Mutual Aid. Mr. Jim Polk said the subject came up during a recent meeting when committee members asked if Louisiana had a Mutual Aid system. CT Moss said that companies are hesitant to sign a document that mandates that they cooperate and provide resources when another facility is in trouble. What CT Moss has found is that if another facility is in trouble, other companies will respond to help. Mutual Aid seems to be moving towards a cooperative agreement that is not written. Mr. Obie Cambre mentioned that many years ago, there was a signed document. Lt. Col Staton said that having some kind of template to follow in situations would benefit smaller jurisdictions so that they know what to expect. CT Moss brought up that at one time, GOHSEP was creating a master list of parishes with what resources specific entities in that parish had. Ms. Jennifer Reynolds responded that funding cuts had delayed progress, but that some parishes had the capability to enter information into a database on their parish's resources and capabilities. Lt. Col. Staton recommended that at the next meeting GOHSEP representatives offer input. Senator Mike Walsworth asked what other states did regarding Mutual Aid. Mr. Obie Cambre answered that the Houston area has several mutual aid systems that worked well and that these could be examined for ideas.

## 7. New Business

The first item of new business concerned the 2016 Annual Report, which was emailed to committee members. Mr. Dunegan stated that there was a typographical error in the Table of Contents that was not discovered until after the report was sent. **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Jim Polk to authorize Mr. Dunegan to have that error corrected. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The next item of new business concerned an LEPC membership update for St. Helena Parish. **A MOTION** was made by Chief Guy Bonin to approve the update. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The third item of new business concerned the 2016 EPA Region 6 LEPC Workshop Tour. Mr. Gene Dunegan said Louisiana had a high percentage and a good turnout for the workshops compared with the other four states in Region 6. The EPA has increased the number of workshops that will be held in Louisiana this year to five.

The fourth item of new business was a presentation by Mr. Gene Dunegan on the origin of the LERC. Mr. Dunegan mentioned that although last year was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the federal Emergency Planning Committee Right-to-Know Act, or EPCRA, that brought LERC into existence, Louisiana at that time already had a committee similar to LERC in place because of the amount of chemicals and explosives in the state. Mr. Dunegan also discussed the purposes and responsibilities of the LERC required by EPCRA, which include establishing planning districts and local emergency planning committees, reviewing parish emergency response plans, providing information to EPA on certain incidents involving hazardous chemicals, and collecting chemical inventory reports from facilities.

9. Lt. Col. Staton asked if there were any questions or announcements from the audience. There were no questions or announcements presented.

Lt. Col. Staton gave the floor to Mr. Gene Dunegan to discuss scheduling of the LERC's next quarterly meeting which normally occurs on the 2nd Wednesday of the 3rd month of the quarter. The next LERC meeting date would be on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, at 1:00 PM, to be held in conjunction with the 2017 LEPA Annual Conference at the Golden Nugget in Lake Charles.

10. **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Keith Bennett to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition. The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.