

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Louisiana Emergency Response Commission**

Meeting Title Louisiana Emergency Response Commission Meeting
Date of Meeting March 13, 2013
Where Louisiana State Police Headquarters Building
1st Floor Conference Room C
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Start Time 10:07 a.m.

1. Lt. Colonel David Staton called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
2. Wanda Colletti, LSP/Right-to-Know Unit, called roll as follows:

Colonel Michael Edmonson, Department of Public Safety, NOT PRESENT
Lt. Colonel David Staton, Department of Public Safety, PRESENT
Peggy Hatch, Department of Environmental Quality, PRESENT
Dr. Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, NOT PRESENT
Dr. Brent Robbins, Designee for Department of Agriculture and Forestry, PRESENT
Kevin Davis, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, NOT PRESENT
Chris Guilbeaux, Designee for Governor's Office of Homeland Security, NOT PRESENT
Captain Taylor Moss, Department of Public Safety, PRESENT
Richard Webre, Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association, PRESENT
Cecil Bennett, Carrol L. Herring Fire and Emergency Training Institute, PRESENT
Brian Wynne, Representative of Environmental Interest, PRESENT
Edward Flynn, Louisiana Chemical Association, PRESENT
Chief Bobby Black, PRESENT
Mayor Hiram Copeland, NOT PRESENT
Chief Jeremy Cryer, Resigned, NOT PRESENT
Chief Samuel Halphen, Jr., PRESENT
Sheriff Willy Martin, Resigned, NOT PRESENT
Paul Naquin, PRESENT
Lieutenant Chris Rushing, PRESENT
Colonel Pat Santos, PRESENT
Senator Mike Walsworth, PRESENT
Senator Mack "Bodi" White, PRESENT

The records reflect that the following visitors were present:

Duval Arthur
Lennie LaFleur, Governor's Office of Homeland Security
Eric Deroche, St. James Parish OEP Director
Jim Polk, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Hazmat

The records also reflect that the following LSP/Right-to-Know personnel were present:

Gene Dunegan
Wanda Colletti
Miklos Gyorgy
Paul Schexnayder, LSP/Legal Staff

3. Lt. Colonel David Staton began the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves.

He then asked the commission to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2012 LERC meeting. **A MOTION** was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. No opposition. The motion passed.

4. Lt. Colonel Staton advised LERC members to review their contact information and relay any changes to Mrs. Wanda Colletti or Mr. Miklos Gyorgy. He stated that he wants to keep the information on the website as current as possible.

Mr. Gene Dunegan commented on the ten new appointments from the governor, indicating that nine appointments are still outstanding. Mr. Dunegan stated that he's been in touch with Holly Robinson from Boards and Commissions, and she commented that all current members are to continue on as normal. She is aware of the three vacancies on the LERC.

Richard Webre, indicated that he is resigning from his LERC position.

Mr. Edward Flynn had a question about LERC member term limits. Mr. Dunegan indicated the LERC members serve at the pleasure of the governor. Senator Bodi White inquired whether senators can send a proxy to vote in their stead on matters during the legislative session. Lt. Colonel Staton replied that per the by-laws a proxy cannot be appointed to vote in place of a LERC member.

5. **Committee Reports:**

Long Range Planning: No Report. Lt. Colonel Staton indicated that the Long Range Planning Chair was vacant and asked if anyone would assume this position. Lt. Colonel Staton then volunteered for this position. **A MOTION** was made to approve. The motion was seconded. No opposition. The motion passed.

Emergency Plans: Colonel Pat Santos referred to the handout in each folder that they provided and he introduced Mr. Lennie LaFleur who reviewed Emergency plans for eight parishes: Franklin, Acadia, Bienville, Caddo/Bossier, Evangeline, Jefferson-Davis, Madison, and Morehouse. All eight reviews had common issues which included: lack of training and medical plans, the identification of vulnerable facilities, and the inclusion of evacuation route maps. Mr. LaFleur stated that four more parishes will be reviewed in the next quarter, they are: Ouachita, Plaquemines, Point Coupee, and St. Bernard. A

discussion ensued about what GOHSEP does if a deficiency is discovered in a parish's emergency plans and can they enforce any changes. Colonel Santos indicated they can only make recommendations they cannot force them to make any changes. Mr. Edward Flynn stated that the relationship between the Louisiana Chemical Association and the parish should be utilized to strengthen emergency response plans.

Training and Resources: Lt. Colonel Staton indicated that the Training and Resources Chair was vacant and asked if anyone would assume this position. Mr. Cecil Bennett volunteered. **A MOTION** was made to approve. The motion was seconded. No opposition. The motion passed.

LEPC Service: Mr. Richard Webre stated that they have had two meetings with Plaquemines Parish LEPC. Lt. Colonel Staton inquired about the amount of turnover at the LEPC level. Mr. Webre described how post 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, the role of the LEPC decreased and the focus on Homeland Security increased. However, recently the role of the LEPC has started to increase back to their original levels.

Public Information: Captain Moss could not include a report into the agenda but did have a topic of conversation. He stated that historically the Hazmat HOTLINE spent between 20-25 minutes to take an incoming call and disperse the information to the corresponding agencies. He would like to encourage industry to use an electronic notification system that would take human error and time delay out of incident reporting. He stated that Texas currently has such a system in place and it is working very well. He stressed that much time is wasted in the duplication of information and the chance for human error is greater when information is taken second hand. He is emphasizing a web-based system to expedite incident information. It must be compatible with Lotus Notes for the Department of Public Safety and it would be funded by industry. The law states that telephonic notification is required, so some changes would have to be made to include electronic notification as well. This would allow some entities that have no computer or internet to continue to make telephonic notification as well as others to make electronic. The incorporation of electronic notification to the Hazmat HOTLINE would significantly reduce the number of calls, incorrect information, and response time by first responders.

Emergency Notification: No report. Lt. Colonel Staton indicated that the Emergency Notification Chair was vacant and stated this position is usually chaired by the Louisiana Chemical Association. Mr. Edward Flynn volunteered for the position. **A MOTION** was made to approve. The motion was seconded. No opposition. The motion passed.

6. Old Business

Lt. Colonel Staton directed everyone to an email, in the handouts, from Mr. David Bierling with Texas A&M Transportation Institute. Mr. Gene Dunegan explained that the purpose of the email is to inform the local LEPCs of available funding for hazmat commodity flow studies.

Another document, in the folder, is from Mr. Tom Bergman, EPCRA Tier 2 Manager for the state of Oklahoma, who is with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. He is requesting access to the Tier II data that we upload into the E-Plan program. The LERC has been granting him access to this information for the past three or four years. **A MOTION** was made to approve. The motion was seconded. No opposition. The motion passed.

7. New Business

Lt. Colonel Staton indicated that included in the handouts is an email from Mr. Richard Webre announcing his resignation as a member of the LERC.

Chief Bobby Black inquired about the possibility of having legislature representation pertaining to the Stolthaven incident in Braithwaite. Senator Mike Walsworth said he would look into what other states are doing in reference to post-Katrina type events. Senator Bodi White said the decision to or to not take action in the preparation of a major event is the business decision of the company. Chief Black said the LERC needs to put some type of legislation in place to make sure an event of this magnitude does not reoccur. Paul Schexnayder, with Legal, said that, as it stands, Louisiana State Police does not have any authority to tell a company to move their products or chemicals out of the way of incoming hurricanes. Mr. Eric Deroche and Mr. Jim Polk commented on the procedures of facilities in preparation for inclement weather. They said most of the time the procedures call for skeleton crews, putting a chain and lock on the gate, and leaving the facility unmanned. Lt. Colonel Staton said it is the burden of industry to determine what is defined as secure. Colonel Pat Santos said the jurisdiction of this matter may lay with the activities of the ESF-10 at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. Lt. Colonel Staton said ESF-10 should assume these responsibilities rather than assigning to a review committee.

Lt. Colonel Staton announced they need to get a vote to approve the 2012 LERC Annual Report. Mr. Dunegan stated that everyone should have received an electronic copy, and included in the folder are a couple of updated documents that will be included in the final report. The first updated document is the list of LEPC Planning Committee Chairpersons and the second is the LEPC Emergency Release Notification Information List. A possible discrepancy was noticed in the Emergency List and the committee was advised to review the contact information with their LEPC chairperson, who submitted the

information, and to let us know of any changes. **A MOTION** was made to approve. The motion was seconded. No opposition. The motion passed.

Mr. Dunegan stated there was a Final rule published in the Federal Register, “Hazardous Materials: Miscellaneous Amendments (RRR)” the rule is in effect and adopts amendments to Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). These changes deal with hazardous material transportation, packaging and regulations.

8. Lt. Colonel Staton asked if there are any members of the public present that would have any comments to add. No public members were present.
9. Lt. Colonel Staton announced the scheduling of the LERC’s next quarterly meeting which occurs on the 2nd Wednesday of the 3rd month of the quarter. The next LERC meeting would fall on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, which is in conflict with the LEPA conference in New Orleans on June 10-12. It was discussed that it would be better to hold the LERC meeting in conjunction with the LEPA conference so that we would have a better chance at a quorum. **A MOTION** was made to approve. The motion was seconded. No opposition. The motion passed. Details will be communicated by email to the LERC members at a later date.
10. **A MOTION** was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded. No opposition. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully,
Wanda Colletti & Miklos Gyorgy
04/19/2013