

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

Meeting Title Louisiana Emergency Response Commission Meeting
Date of Meeting March 14, 2018
Where Louisiana State Police Headquarters
7919 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Start Time 10:07 a.m.

1. Lt. Col. David Staton called the meeting to order at 10:07 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, PRESENT
Dr. Brent Robbins, Designee for Department of Agriculture and Forestry, PRESENT
Casey Tingle, Designee for Governor's Office of Homeland Security, 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
Nissan Patel, Assistant HazMat Director, Jefferson Parish Fire Services, PRESENT
Obed "Obie" Cambre, Jr., ExxonMobil, PRESENT
Sgt. Kenneth "Scott" Bowman, Baton Rouge Police Department, PRESENT
Chris Guilbeaux, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, NOTPRESENT
Senator Mike Walsworth, NOT PRESENT
Senator Mack "Bodi" White, NOT PRESENT

The records reflect that the following LSP/Emergency Services Unit personnel were present:

Gene Dunegan
Tara Guidry
Jericha Hilbert, Office of Legal Affairs
Alisa Monroe

3. Lt. Col. Staton thanked members for their faithfulness to attend meetings and carry out the commission's work. Lt. Col. Staton welcomed new commission member Nissan Patel of the Jefferson Parish Fire Services and new designee Casey Tingle of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security.

4. Lt. Col. Staton asked the commission to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2017 LERC meeting. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Casey Tingle 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 the report from the Long Range Planning Committee. Chief Black referred to the report he submitted for the 2017 Annual Report of the Louisiana Emergency Response Commission.

Emergency Plans Review: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Mr. Casey Tingle who presented the report from the Emergency Plans Review Committee on behalf of Mr. Chris Guilbeaux, who was not present. Since the previous meeting, the committee has reviewed plans from the following parishes: Assumption, Avoyelles, Calcasieu, and LaSalle. All four parishes met all EPCRA requirements. The next quarter plan reviews will include Natchitoches, Vernon, Caldwell, and Jackson Parishes.

Training and Resources: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Mr. Keith Bennett for the report from the Training and Resources Committee. Mr. Bennett referred to the report he submitted for the Commission's Annual Report. Since the first quarter is not yet complete, Mr. Bennett did not have a first quarter report.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Service: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Mr. Jim Polk for the report from the LEPC Service Committee. Mr. Polk said that he is sending an email to each LEPC chair which includes information on the Local Governments Reimbursement Program from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Public Information – There was no report submitted by the Public Information Committee.

6. **Old Business**

The only item of old business concerned Tier II filing. Mr. Gene Dunegan stated that the annual Tier II filing period, which is from January 1st to March 1st, had just concluded successfully with no significant problems. Mr. Dunegan noted that close to 18,000 facilities filed reports this year, but there are still facilities in Louisiana that should be completing these inventories but do not. Thanks to education courses and presentations, a majority of the rural water associations in Louisiana have filed chemical inventories accounting for the chlorine they use and store, when just a few years ago very few did.

7. **New Business**

The first item of new business concerned LEPC membership updates for eleven parishes: Bossier, Concordia, East Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lafourche, Orleans, St. Helena, St. James, Vermilion, West Carroll, and West Feliciana.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Jim Polk to approve the updates. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The next item of new business concerned a flaring event that occurred on Saturday, March 10th at the Chalmette Refining facility. Chief Bobby Black asked if there was any more information on it, since he had received several phone calls concerning this. CT Taylor Moss said that the event had no offsite impact and no injuries were reported, so the State Police had no regulatory authority. CT Moss confirmed that the company did report the event to the State Police HazMat Hotline. Dr. Chuck Brown added that the Department of Environmental Quality investigated the event, and said that Chalmette Refining had an instrument failure that caused a gas compressor to send product to the flare during their turnaround. Normally they would have two flares operating, but one of them was not in working order, so all material was sent to the other working flare. DEQ performed air monitoring and will do a follow-up assessment with the company. Chalmette Refining did send out a notice to the local surrounding community concerning the event. Dr. Brown noted that the event looked worse than it was, but that the flare did what it was designed to do.

The third item of new business concerned the upcoming 2018 Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association conference to be held May 14 to 17 in Baton Rouge. Mr. Jim Polk said he will send out information about registration and the agenda for the conference. Mr. Casey Tingle added that because GOHSEP had to cancel their annual conference earlier this year due to weather issues, they were working with LEPA to have an amended GOHSEP conference on the third day of the LEPA conference. Chief Bobby Black also pointed out that the Louisiana Fire Chiefs would be holding their annual conference April 3 to 6 at the Baton Rouge Marriott.

The fourth item of new business related back to the Chalmette Refining incident and concerned courtesy calls to the Hazmat Hotline. Mr. Gene Dunegan explained that most of the Louisiana Chemical Association members will make a phone call about a hazardous material event at their facility, whether it is required or not. CT Taylor Moss further noted that if the event does not meet the standards of a reportable incident (no fires, no injuries) the call is a courtesy and not a response. Mr. Jim Polk mentioned that companies also make courtesy calls to the St. Charles Emergency Operations Center if they are having issues. Mr. Travis Perrilloux told the commission that St. John's EOC received a courtesy call/request in February from Marathon Petroleum in Garyville for a bomb robot. There was a tar ball in their coker unit which caused it to shut down. Assisted by the St. Charles Sheriff's Office, they were able to send the robot into the coker unit to activate valves to clear the tar ball, a task that would be dangerous for a human to complete. Mr. Polk added that they can also equip the robot with cameras and air monitors. Lt. Col. Staton said it was a good example of industry and agencies working together to keep people safe. Discussion then turned to drones, and Dr. Brown mentioned that DEQ now has three drones with cameras, and hope to grow their capabilities to add drones with air monitors and infrared cameras to be stationed at each of DEQ's regional offices.

The fifth item of new business concerned the commission's annual report, which was sent to all commission members electronically for review. The report is also sent to the governor's office and to the heads of agencies that participated in its submission. **A MOTION** was made by Chief

Bobby Black to accept the annual report. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The final item of new business concerned a question at a previous meeting on whether the EPA would conduct LEPC workshops again this year in Louisiana. Mr. Gene Dunegan stated that they will be held this year, most likely in the September-October timeframe. The workshops will take place in five locations: the New Orleans area, the Baton Rouge-Addis area, the Lake Charles area, the Shreveport-Monroe area, and the Alexandria area.

8. Lt. Col. Staton asked if there were any questions or announcements from the audience.

There were no questions or announcements from the audience.

9. 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. Historically, the second quarterly meeting is held in conjunction with the LEPA conference. This would set the next LERC meeting date as Monday, May 14, 2018, at 10:00 AM, in the West Wing of the Crowne Plaza, located at 4728 Constitution Avenue in Baton Rouge. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Jim Polk to accept the next meeting date. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.
10. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Jim Polk to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.