

**STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION ADVISORY
AND
STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION**

PENDING MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

Department of Environmental Quality

Multi Agency State Office Building, Canyonlands Room – Second Floor

195 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

And Via Google Meet

SERC Attendance List:

Hamlet, Kris..... Utah Department of Public Safety/DEM
Millican, Hans Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR

SERCA Attendance List:

Carter, Brock..... Marathon Petroleum/SERCA Chair
Deyo, Art..... State Fire Marshal
Johnson, Kelly Urban LEPC Liaison/ SERCA Vice Chair
Mixco, Joaquin Utah Department of Transportation/SERCA Representative
Needles, Justin. Carbon County Emergency Management/SERCA Rural LEPC Representative

Also Attending:

Daniels, Tom Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR
Everett, Brent Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR
Gallagher, Jeff..... Utah Department of Public Safety/DEM
Hammer, Kim..... Utah Department of Public Safety/DEM
Mortensen, Amber Utah Department of Transportation
Nelson, Jennifer..... Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR
Norris, Braden Utah Department of Public Safety/DEM
Petersen, Jamie..... Utah Department of Public Safety/DEM
Phillips, Brandon..... Marathon Petroleum

Via Google Meet:

Alvord, Scott..... Utah Department of Public Safety/DEM
Boynton, Anna..... Utah Department of Public Safety/DEM
Crowther, Angelia Utah Department of Public Safety/DEM
Hart, John EnviroCare/SERCA Representative
Hankins, Jeff BNSF
Jorgensen, Rich..... Utah Attorney General's Office
Keeler, Robin..... Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR
Kennington, Ladd..... LW Miller Companies
Lund, Ron Salt Lake County Health Department/ SERCA Chair
Miller, Mechelle..... Utah Department of Public Safety/DEM
Smith, Elisa Utah Department of Environmental Quality/DERR
Taylor, Neil SERCA Public Representative

Watkins, HarleyUtah Highway Patrol/SERCA Representative

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kris Hamlet

Kris Hamlet, Director, Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division of Emergency Management (DEM), welcomed attendees to the combined State Emergency Response Commission Advisory Committee (SERCA) and the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) (herein referred to as “Committees”) meeting and thanked them for their participation. The SERC is represented by Mr. Hamlet for the DPS Commissioner, Jess Anderson, and Hans Millican, CERCLA Branch Manager, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), for the DEQ Executive Director, Tim Davis.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the March 17, 2025 Committees Meeting Minutes

Kris Hamlet

Minutes from the March 17, 2025, Committees meeting have been reviewed by the SERCA and the SERC. With the addition of Justin Needles to the attendance list, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Mr. Hamlet, and seconded by Mr. Millican, and unanimously approved.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Rule Consideration - Add Railway to SERC Advisory members

Brock Carter

Brock Carter, SERCA Chair, recently met with BNSF Railway. Jeff Hankins has applied to join the SERCA. As there isn't an official rail representative, Mr. Carter is proposing a rule change to be able to appoint Mr. Hankins as a member of the SERCA. Mr. Hankins would provide significant value; his consulting in rail transportation would be a great asset in helping the SERCA address key questions and advance initiatives.

SERCA Updates

Brock Carter

Despite a blizzard, the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Conference was well-attended and received high marks from attendees. Keynotes, breakout speakers, relevant topics, and the outdoor demo were well-received. Areas for improvement include larger breakout rooms, clearer room assignments, and improved food and drink options. Suggested future topics included enforcement of Tier 2 non-compliance, rural success stories, tabletop exercises, funding resources, and chemical reporting laws.

The SERCA is forming three small workgroups: Planning, Emergency Response Plans, and LEPC Support. The goal is to increase engagement and drive meaningful progress in each of these priority areas. Kelly Johnson, SERCA Vice Chair, will run the Planning Workgroup and will focus on planning the LEPC Conference and quarterly meetings. Justin Needles, SERCA Rural LEPC Representative, will lead the Emergency Response Plans Workgroup, aiming to formalize feedback on submitted plans. Mr. Carter will run the LEPC Support Workgroup, addressing current needs of the LEPCs, such as grant information and tabletop exercise planning.

2025 HMEP Grants, HazMat, and Training Update

Art Deyo

Art Deyo, HazMat Section Manager, State Fire Marshal’s Office, provided an update on the 2025 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant, noting the application period closes soon. Additional funding has been requested to support the LEPC Conference.

Tier 2 Update

Robin Keeler

Robin Keeler, Environmental Scientist, DERR, presented Tier 2 reporting data for 2024, showing 4,889 unique reporting facilities, with the majority in Uintah and Duchesne counties due to oil and gas production wells.

SERCA Representative Updates

Utah Department of Transportation

Joaquin Mixco

Joaquin Mixco, Emergency Management Coordinator, Utah Department of Transportation, announced Sean O’Neal as their new Electronic Communication Lead.

The Utah Transportation Conference will be held October 28–30, 2025, at the Mountain America Expo Center in Sandy.

Local Health Departments

Ron Lund

Nothing to report at this time.

Hazardous Chemical Transportation Industry

Ladd Kennington

Commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers can be placed out of service if they are unable to understand English or road signs. This enforcement could occur at ports and other inspection points. Many of these drivers may be transporting hazardous materials, which could present additional complications.

Environmental Clean-Up Contractors

John Hart

John Hart, EnviroCare, reported a recent increase in spills, particularly sewage and tack oil flushed into storm drains by asphalt companies, leading to significant cleanup costs.

Fixed Site Regulated Industries

Brock Carter, Wade Skinner

Mr. Carter reported that there were no incidents for fixed site regulated industries.

There is one remaining open spot for the annual Rescue Games.

Public

Neil Taylor

Nothing to report at this time.

Urban LEPC Representative

Kelly Johnson

Ms. Johnson provided an update on a recent effort to redistribute counties between urban and rural liaisons, based on population classifications. Mr. Needles is leading this initiative.

Rural LEPC Representative

Justin Needles

Mr. Needles elaborated on the redistribution effort, outlining recent progress and next steps.

Established Environmental Interest Group

Carmen ValDez

Carmen ValDez was not in attendance.

Utah National Guard

Craig Bello

Craig Bello was not in attendance.

Utah Highway Patrol

Harley Watkins

Harley Watkins, Utah Highway Patrol (UHP), informed the Committees that the UHP investigated three Class III or higher crashes. Most involved fuel and were primarily caused by inattentive driving. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will offer English language proficiency options for drivers as mandated by Internal Policy

DEQ Updates

Tom Daniels

Tom Daniels, Site Assessment Section Manager, DERR, presented an update to the Committees on Spill Notifications made to the Spills Hotline since April 1, 2025. There were four major incidents reported.

A mercury release occurred at a thrift store in Kaysville after a barometer was broken, resulting in a significant amount of mercury spilling onto the floor. Davis County requested a DERR response using the LUMEX unit.

A sewer line break near a sewage treatment plant in Helper, resulted in a discharge that flowed into a canal and reached the Price River. The Division of Water Quality responded promptly and assisted with the cleanup. The discharge volume into the Price River was minimal, and swift action helped mitigate environmental impact.

At the Department of Human Health Services (DHHS) building in Ogden, an attempt was made to flush mercury down a toilet. The DERR responded and measured elevated mercury vapor concentrations in the restroom. The DERR instructed building management to close the affected bathroom, and the DHHS arranged for professional cleanup to be conducted.

A property owner in Laketown (Bear Lake area) reported a suspected discharge of manure and animal waste from a nearby canal, directly into Bear Lake. The Division of Natural Resources (DNR) responded and determined that the issue stemmed from an overflow in an upstream irrigation canal. The DNR is coordinating with the local water master to identify solutions and prevent future incidents.

OTHER ITEMS

Other Items of Discussion

Mr. Hamlet thanked Mr. Carter, Ms. Johnson, and the entire team for their efforts in organizing the LEPC Conference held in March, noting that a great deal of positive feedback was received.

Mr. Hart will be retiring at the end of the year.

Next Meeting

The next Committees meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2025.

Brock Carter

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Brock Carter