

**Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (MRMTC)
Spring 2020 Meeting Summary**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom
May 18, 2020**

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Roll Call and Welcome

- a. Lisa Janairo (Council of State Governments (CSG) Midwest) took the roll call and used the opportunity to confirm everyone could see, hear, be seen, and be heard on the Zoom call.
- b. As Committee Co-Chair, Kaci Studer (Indiana) thanked those in attendance and mentioned that a virtual meeting is something that the committee has been talking about for a long time, but that COVID-19 forced their hand. She mentioned that the Annual Meeting of the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) was cancelled but that several sessions would be transferred to an online format.
- c. Ms. Studer acknowledged the tight schedule and requested attendees keep their remarks to 1) anything directly related to transportation, 2) developments related to the actual or possible shutdown of nuclear power plants, and 3) notable developments or activities in their states or Tribes related to COVID-19 response. Finally, Ms. Studer noted that this was her first meeting as senior Co-Chair and Tiffany Drake's (Missouri) first meeting as junior Co-Chair.

2. Report from the Co-Chairs

- a. Ms. Studer noted that, because of COVID-19, there had not been a whole lot of recent activity. She talked about the Transportation Tabletop Workshop that took place at the MRMTC Fall 2019 Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. She found the exercise, which simulated what planning for a spent nuclear fuel (SNF) shipment would look like, to be very productive and hopes for similar exercises in the near future. She also noted that the committee's Regional Tribal Engagement (RTE) Work Group has been very busy.

3. Project Update

- a. Ms. Janairo reported that the committee's funding is good and that the Department of Energy's Office of Packaging and Transportation (DOE-OPT) had allocated some money for the canceled NTSF Meeting, but that that funding is being used for the virtual NTSF sessions and for the rest of the May to April fiscal year. The month of May is when the committee applies for a continuation of funding from its agreement with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). This funding is especially useful for Illinois and Iowa, which see shipments to WIPP from Illinois' Argonne National Laboratory (ANL). The committee is in the year four of five for its project period with the DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE). The balance in the travel line item of the committee's budget will be higher than usual because people aren't traveling for meetings and/or trainings, but this funding can be used for online trainings and conferences.
- b. Ms. Janairo noted that for the first time in a very long time, every seat on the committee is filled. This comes after the appointment of James Rashilla in Nebraska and Angela Leek as

an alternate in Iowa. Since the 2020 elections are quickly approaching, the committee will wait until the Fall to think about outreach to prospective legislative members.

- c. Regarding shipment planning, Ms. Janairo reported that not much has been happening. WIPP may take some shipments later in the year but ANL is low on the priority list compared to other shipment sites.
- d. Regarding information and communications, Ms. Janairo told attendees to ask Mitch Arvidson (CSG Midwest) to be added to the distribution list if they are not receiving the committee's monthly newsletters. She also noted that committee staffers are working on an update to the Transportation Issues Archive, which was created in 2010 with the last bit of funding from the now defunct Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. Ms. Janairo expects that work to be done in July, with a virtual presentation coming in July or August to mark the ten-year anniversary.
- e. Finally, she acknowledged that a website redesign was discussed at the Fall Meeting. The committee's website will be redesigned as part of an overhaul of the entire CSG Midwest website in 2020 and 2021.

4. Regional Roundtable

- a. Illinois: Rodney Pitchford delivered Illinois' report. The majority of Illinois' emergency management staff is assisting with COVID-19 response activities, but still supporting shipments through the state, which have been greatly reduced. Carriers and drivers have expressed some concerns about social distancing during inspections. Illinois has instituted a complete ban on all out-of-state travel for employees and greatly limited in-state travel as well. It is too early to tell what COVID-19's impact on the state's budget will be. For FY2020, Illinois has seen 23 highway route-controlled quantity (HRCQ), two SNF, two WIPP, and 15 non-HRCQ shipments - all with no violations. Finally, the state has seen a huge drop-off in low-level waste (LLW) shipments due to the completion of Zion's decommissioning in December 2019.
- b. Indiana: Ms. Studer delivered Indiana's report. Indiana is still seeing HRCQ and LLW shipments, but overall numbers are down compared to the previous fiscal year. There has been a small uptick in shipments in recent weeks. The state is continuing to work on its notification system that helps communicate with local agencies. There have been several stops and starts to this project due to staffing issues. Regarding COVID-19, Indiana is slowly reopening, and state employees are returning to offices in a staggered manner. State employee travel is being very closely scrutinized and will continue to be limited in the future. Finally, the transportation position at Ms. Studer's office is vacant again, so she is the only one in the field in Indiana.
- c. Iowa: Ms. Leek gave Iowa's report. The Duane Arnold Nuclear Power Plant, near Cedar Rapids, is decommissioning and plans to shut down in the Fall. Iowa is working on maintaining the plant's firewall and the exclusion zone will be maintained until the middle or end of Summer. Emergency preparedness for Duane Arnold will remain in place until then. Regarding COVID-19, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) is teleworking with no timeline for returning to the office since everything they need is accessible from home. Transportation and shipment escorts have been maintained during this time. Finally, Iowa adjusted its Radiological Emergency Plan (REP) Compensatory Actions during COVID-19. [Note: The memo for this change can be found on the [meeting's webpage](#).]

For the time being, in the case of a radiological emergency, Iowa will preferentially shelter-in-place, especially for elder care centers, to avoid congregating large groups of people in small areas. Connecticut is doing something similar. Christopher Boswell added to Iowa's report that he has been a part of several escorts and they have been able to pick up shipments across state lines. He also reported that the state is moving back to normal, whatever the new normal is going to be.

- d. Kansas: Swapan Saha gave Kansas' report. Kansas is reopening the economy in three phases and Mr. Saha believes the state will be entering phase two soon.
- e. Michigan: Greg Gothard gave Michigan's report. He reminded attendees that he brought Mike Neller, who had replaced Michigan's previous Radiation Transport Manager, to last year's meeting. Mr. Neller is gone as well, and they have an even newer manager now. Michigan has been working on comments for the environmental impact statement (EIS) of Interim Storage Partners' (ISP) proposed consolidated interim storage facility (CISF) in west Texas. [Note: These comments can also be found on the [meeting's webpage](#).] Mr. Gothard had gone through the entire EIS, looking specifically for information related to transportation from origin sites. Meanwhile, Palisades Nuclear Power Plant remains on track for permanent shutdown and defueling in 2022. The site has been sold to HOLTEC for decommissioning. This sale also included the license for Big Rock Point's SNF. Regarding COVID-19, Michigan's governor banned all out-of-state travel for employees until at least May 15, and Mr. Gothard was unsure if it had been extended or not. In-state travel restrictions to the Upper Peninsula and Traverse City area were recently lifted. Waylon Sanford added that the Michigan State Police have been busy with COVID-19 response and that there are some updates affecting the governor's point of contact, Kevin Sweeney, that will need to be reflected in the [Planning Guide for Shipments of Radioactive Material through the Midwestern States](#).
- f. Missouri: Ms. Drake gave Missouri's report. She reported that Missouri's experience has been similar to other states, with not as many HRCQ shipments occurring. However, the state is on track for the same level as two years ago. As of two weeks ago, the DOE Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP) exercise scheduled to take place in Moberly, Missouri, in September, was postponed to the next federal fiscal year. There will be conversations this Fall between Missouri and DOE, and the exact date for 2021 (hopefully in May) will be set then. Missouri's nuclear power plants are also having to reschedule their exercises. Ms. Drake is also looking at the CISF EISes from a transportation point of view. Regarding COVID-19, Ms. Drake has been working from home since March and her department has very limited staff, four out of 100, in the office. She expects there will be some kind of return to the office in June.
- g. Nebraska: Mr. Rashilla gave Nebraska's report. He noted that he has been officially appointed as Nebraska's representative on the MRMTC and is very excited about that. Nebraska has not seen any recent changes in personnel. Regarding COVID-19 regulatory changes, Nebraska reserves the right to conduct Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Level VI inspections, but they are not required. There are no other limitations on transportation in the state. He expressed interest in Iowa's REP Compensatory Actions memo. Non-essential travel for state employees is still very restricted, if not banned entirely. Finally, Nebraska's State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) has been completely digitized.

- h. Ohio: Michael Snee gave Ohio's report. FirstEnergy Solutions, which owns Davis-Besse and Perry Nuclear Power Plants, went bankrupt. It has recently reemerged under the name EnergyHarbor. The company indicated to both Ohio and Pennsylvania that, if the states didn't subsidize their nuclear power plants, they would have to be closed. Ohio did subsidize the company despite a failed effort to repeal the subsidy by referendum. Pennsylvania refused to subsidize but EnergyHarbor has announced that they will not close all of their units in the state. Meanwhile, Ohio has seen routine radiator shipments and routine radiation inspections, except for at hospitals. Regarding COVID-19, Mr. Snee is now in his eighth week of working from home and he anticipates that this will continue until at least July 1, but probably will continue well into the Fall. He also reported that there is an out-of-state travel ban for state employees until at least July 1.
- i. South Dakota: Nick Emme gave South Dakota's report. South Dakota had gotten a few shipments of radioactive material. The South Dakota Office of Emergency Management and the Superintendent of the state's Highway Patrol get notifications for these shipments. Almost all state employees have been working from home and South Dakota's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have been phasing back in to working at the office and will likely work in shifts until July.
- j. Wisconsin: Adam Davenport gave Wisconsin's report. Wisconsin had a very strong stay-at-home order due to COVID-19 until last week, when the state Supreme Court struck down the order. Local jurisdictions like Dane County immediately implemented basically the same order, but the rules are a patchwork across the state. Meanwhile, the state saw one HRCQ shipment. The Wisconsin-Minnesota joint exercise for the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant has been postponed. It is currently scheduled for July, but they are looking to push it back to the Fall. Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant is still up and running but Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant is going through decommissioning. For state employees, all travel, out-of-state and in-state, has been restricted. Paul Schmidt added that travel restrictions have limited almost all inspections. The state has a program called "Badger Bounce Back," which will determine how state government can return to operation.
- k. Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations: Richard Arnold gave the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations' report. Tribal governments that function near Nevada's National Security Site (NNSS) are still operating at full capacity and haven't seen any COVID-19 cases. He reported that the comment period for shipments from the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Site was extended 14 days, until May 28. Finally, only critical shipments are being accepted at NNSS currently.
- l. Prairie Island Indian Community (PIIC): Heather Westra gave the PIIC's report. PIIC is reviewing the two CISF EISs that are out and looking for transportation concerns. She was asked to be part of the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI) Transportation and SNF Storage Task Force. Most of the group is made up of energy utilities but Ms. Westra is happy that Tribes have a voice. On a related note, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is developing an assessment for readiness to regulate transportation of SNF, especially in relation to communications and external stakeholders. Ms. Westra believes this is an opportunity for the MRMTC, Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (TRMTC), and NTSF to make sure they're part of that effort. Regarding COVID-19, Ms. Westra has always worked from home, so this is nothing new for her, but PIIC has had to

shut down almost all of their enterprises. The PIIC is not subject to Minnesota's laws, but they're still following the governor's guidance.

- m. TRMTC: Mr. Arnold briefly reported that the TRMTC is making sure there is continuity with Tribes' interactions with the NRC.
- n. Shoshone Bannock Tribes: Laurie Hernandez gave the Shoshone Bannock Tribes' report. The Tribes and the state of Idaho have begun to loosen their restrictions recently. The Tribes' casino is open to just tribal members, but gradually working to get everyone back.

5. NTSF-Related Reports

- a. Planning Committee (PC): Ms. Studer reported that most of the committee's conversations have been about the cancelled 2020 meeting and the initial planning for the 2021 Annual Meeting of the NTSF. The 2021 Meeting will take place in June in Charleston, South Carolina. Ms. Studer asked attendees to try to attend as many of the 2020 virtual sessions as possible. The "Federal Agencies Update" and "NRC Shipping Notifications" webinars are open for registration now. Ms. Studer reported that Julia Shenk is the new Director of DOE-OPT and Chair of the NTSF. Ms. Studer said that she and Mr. Snee represent the MRMTC on the NTSF PC. She asked if Mr. Snee wanted to stay on the PC and he confirmed he did. Ms. Studer then announced that if anyone is interested in the position, she would be willing to step down and allow them to step in.
- b. Rail/Routing Ad Hoc Working Group (R/R AHWG): Ms. Drake reported that the last time the group met, they were working on the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Safety Compliance Oversight Plan (SCOP). The SCOP was being rewritten from its 1998 version and the group gave a number of comments to the FRA. The two FRA employees working on the update still haven't made the new version available for review. Most of the first comments were about making the SCOP clearer and more useful for non-FRA readers. The second draft was supposed to be done by now, but FRA is still working on it. The group has also been working on a revised Reciprocal Rail Inspection Protocol, which will help states standardize rail shipment inspections. Ms. Janairo provided comments on the protocol to Erica Bickford, an employee of DOE-NE and R/R AHWG staffer, in mid-March. The Protocol is focused on rail safety, but MRMTC wants to see an increased emphasis on radiation safety. Finally, Ms. Drake reported that Dr. Kim Petry is the new Acting Director of DOE's Office of Integrated Waste Management (DOE-IWM).
- c. Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Training AHWG: Mr. Gothard reported that the group has focused mainly on updating Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) course trainings. The group had some activity at the end of last year and beginning of this year. He expected publication of the *Emergency Response Guidebook* (ERG) by early 2020, but that was derailed by COVID-19. Once the ERG is received, changes to the MERRTT trainings should take about 30 days. Ms. Janairo asked if the group has had any recent conference calls. Mr. Gothard responded that they have not.
- d. Management Plan AHWG: Ms. Janairo described the group's task to write and get out the NTSF Management Plan about helping meeting hosts, webinar hosts, and AHWG leads understand their roles and responsibilities. Ellen Edge (DOE-OPT) has the group's input, which has been incorporated in the Management Plan draft. Now the group is waiting for DOE approval and publication.

6. Other Meetings Attended

- a. Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) Committees: Mr. Gothard reported on his attendance of the SSEB Committees' Meeting in Miami, Florida, in December 2019. At the meeting, he gave a brief update about the MRMTC, the election of Ms. Drake as Co-Chair (creating the first all-female leadership team of a State Regional Group (SRG)), November's Transportation Tabletop Workshop, the move to all-digital for the *Planning Guide*, expanding tribal engagement, etc. At the meeting, Mr. Gothard learned that WIPP had suspended several shipments because scheduled maintenance was moved up unexpectedly. Furthermore, WIPP is supposed to be decommissioning at this point in its "pilot" but operations are actually expanding. During the meeting, Denise Richards (Texas) had asked Ms. Bickford what will happen when the Waste Control Specialists' (WCS) CISF is up and running. Ms. Bickford could only talk about what DOE is doing and said that there is no contract between DOE and the proposed CISFs. Mr. Gothard explained that his understanding is that three private entities are all vying for the nation's SNF and no one knows who will get what first. Mr. Gothard explained that Ken Yale at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) talked about the "One Responder" program, which will be a training repository for credentialing. Ms. Leek explained that she runs the "One Responder" program in Iowa and that it's a qualifications-management system. State and local officials can use it to check credentials of various stakeholders. Finally, Mr. Gothard explained that the meeting concluded with a tour of the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant.
- b. Institute for Nuclear Materials Management (INMM) Spent Fuel Seminar: Kelly Horn (Illinois) reported on his attendance of the INMM Spent Fuel Seminar in Alexandria, Virginia, in January. He was invited to be a panelist at the seminar on readiness for SNF transportation by 2023. Other panelists included Duke Energy, Edlow International, etc. Mr. Horn used lessons learned and action items that Illinois and the Midwest took away from NEI's and the MRMTC's tabletop exercises. During his presentation, he used the [Venn diagram from MRMTC's November Meeting](#) showing the differences and similarities between DOE and licensee shipments. Mr. Horn noted that the NRC expressed interest in using the Venn diagram for their own purposes. Mr. Horn sent a PDF of the Venn diagram to Gerry Jackson (NRC). Aside from Mr. Horn's panel discussion, Daniel Ogg with the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) provided an overview of technical issues that need to be addressed before SNF shipments occur. Mr. Ogg covered rail, highway, barge, and canister infrastructure concerns and said that the NWTRB will be making recommendations for DOE to follow-up on. Additionally, Mr. Horn learned that the Atlas Railcar development remains on schedule.

7. Committee Discussion

- a. Plan for Regional Tribal Engagement (RTE) Briefing: Mr. Gothard gave a report on the RTE Work Group's plans for a briefing on regional Tribes. This briefing arose from the recommendations the MRMTC accepted from the RTE Work Group during last Spring's MRMTC Meeting in Arlington, Virginia. The exact recommendation for CSG Midwest was to "provide assistance to members of the MRMTC and other committee representatives: by arranging a briefing to help committee members and other Midwestern state attendees to become more culturally aware of tribal traditions, customs, and norms." To that end, the RTE Work Group had been busy preparing a 45-minute briefing that was planned to be held during the MRMTC Spring Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. Mr. Gothard

reported that this had been rolled over into an hour-long briefing via GoToWebinar on Tuesday, June 2, at 1 p.m. Central Time. During this briefing, Scott Doig of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will provide a 10,000 ft. view of the Midwest's Tribes, their lands, their governance, possible transportation routes through and near tribal lands, etc. After that, Ms. Westra and Phil Meraz (Iowa) will provide concrete examples of how to develop successful government-to-government interactions between Tribes and states. [Note: The briefing took place after the virtual Spring Meeting but before this summary was written. You can find a recording of the [briefing here.](#)]

- b. Planning Guide Update: Mr. Arvidson reminded attendees of the big update completed last year for the *Planning Guide for Shipments of Radioactive Material through the Midwestern States*. He explained that this year's update will not be as comprehensive and that it will be to keep the online information as up to date as possible. In the coming days or weeks, Mr. Arvidson will be sending a Word document to all committee members and alternates to review their state's information. He told attendees that if they notice anything that needs to be changed, the state's CVSA Level-VI inspectors for example, to use track changes to indicate those edits. Mr. Arvidson requested attendees to send the changes back to him and he will get the online version corrected.
- c. Possible Dates and Ideas for Fall Meeting: Mr. Arvidson reported on the results of the poll conducted among MRMTC members regarding the Fall Meeting. He announced that the MRMTC is targeting a day and a half meeting in the Chicago suburbs on Tuesday afternoon, November 17, and all day on Wednesday, November 18. The majority of poll respondents said that it was neither likely nor unlikely that they and/or their state agency would be comfortable with out-of-state travel by November. Therefore, if the MRMTC cannot have an in-person meeting in November, there can also be a virtual meeting. This can be done as a longer four-hour session or it can be split up into two or more sessions over the course of a few weeks. Mr. Arvidson said a final decision doesn't need to be made until about three months out but invited attendees to discuss. Ms. Studer asked if the Chicago suburbs location is set. Ms. Janairo answered that committee members indicated a preference for the suburbs instead of downtown Chicago. The committee must think about how to set up the rooms to maintain six feet of separation and how to prepare personal protective equipment (PPE) for all attendees. Ms. Janairo also said there can be a hybrid situation in which people who can drive to Lombard and/or suburbs can attend in person and those who live farther away can attend on Zoom. She said it would be wise to hold off on a hotel search until we know where things might stand in November. Ms. Studer asked if anybody had strong feelings one way or another. Ms. Leek suggested that if there's time to wait, the committee should take its time since so much has changed in the last two months. Ms. Drake and Mr. Gothard commented that they would not probably not be able to attend a meeting on November 17. The MRMTC will revisit the topic in a few months.
- d. Committee Work Group Assignments: Ms. Studer asked if anybody would like to take her spot on the NTSF Planning Committee. There were no takers, so Ms. Studer will continue to represent the Midwest along with Mr. Sneer.

8. Wrap-Up

- a. Closing Remarks: Ms. Studer remarked that the MRMTC has shown it can be technologically proficient and successfully hold a virtual meeting. She thanked everyone for their time and for their continued participation in the committee's mission.

9. Adjourn

ATTENDEES

Committee Members:

Christopher Boswell, Iowa
Adam Davenport, Wisconsin
Tiffany Drake, Missouri, co-chair
Greg Gothard, Michigan
Kelly Horn, Illinois
Angela Leek, Iowa
Rodney Pitchford, Illinois
James Rashilla, Nebraska
Swapan Saha, Kansas
Waylon Sanford, Michigan
Paul Schmidt, Wisconsin
Michael Snee, Ohio
Kaci Studer, Indiana, co-chair

Other State Attendees:

Phillip Meraz, Iowa
Brian Verduyse, Illinois

Tribal Representatives:

Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute Tribe
Laurie Hernandez, Shoshone Bannock
Tribes
Heather Westra, Prairie Island Indian
Community

Other Attendees:

Mitch Arvidson, CSG Midwest
Lisa Janairo, CSG Midwest

ACTION ITEMS

States:

- All will update their *Planning Guide for Shipments of Radioactive Material through the Midwestern States* sections using track changes in the word file Mr. Arvidson will provide soon
- All will mark calendars for the NTSF 2021 Meeting: June in Charleston, South Carolina
- All will mark calendars for the MRMTC Fall 2020 Meeting: November 17-18 in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois
- All will register for and attend the [MRMTC's Regional Tribal Briefing](#) on Tuesday, June 2, at 1 PM CDT
- All who are interested will register for and attend the remaining NTSF virtual sessions:
 - Wednesday, May 27, at 1 PM CDT: [Radiation 101](#)
 - Wednesday, June 3, at 12 PM CDT: [NRC - Packaging Procedures and Shipping Notifications Overview](#)
 - Tuesday, June 9, at 1 PM CDT: [What to Inspect When You're Expecting SNF Shipments - Regulations and Technology](#)
 - Monday, June 29, at 1 PM CDT: [Unlocking Department of Transportation \(DOT\) Funds for Radioactive Waste Shipments](#)
- Mr. Gothard will share his review of the EIS for ISP's proposed CISF for SNF
- Ms. Drake will share her comments on the EIS for the ISP and HOLTEC CISFs
- Ms. Leek will share her agency's memo on compensatory measures for response to a radiological incident during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Ms. Studer and Mr. Snee will continue to serve on the NTSF Planning Committee

Staff:

- Ms. Janairo will determine if the MRMTC wants to submit comments as a committee on the various EISs and/or the NRC's reclassification of very low-level waste for disposal
- Mr. Arvidson will reach out to Tansey Moore at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) to review tribal points of contact in the *Planning Guide*
- Mr. Arvidson will update the online version of the *Planning Guide* to reflect provided changes
- Mr. Arvidson will write and post the meeting summary on the [MRMTC website](#)
- Ms. Janairo and Mr. Arvidson will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation as it relates to the possible Fall 2020 Committee Meeting in the Chicago suburbs on November 17 and 18